



The coffin of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is carried out from St Paul's Cathedral, Wednesday, April 17, 2013.
(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

IRON LADY LAID TO REST

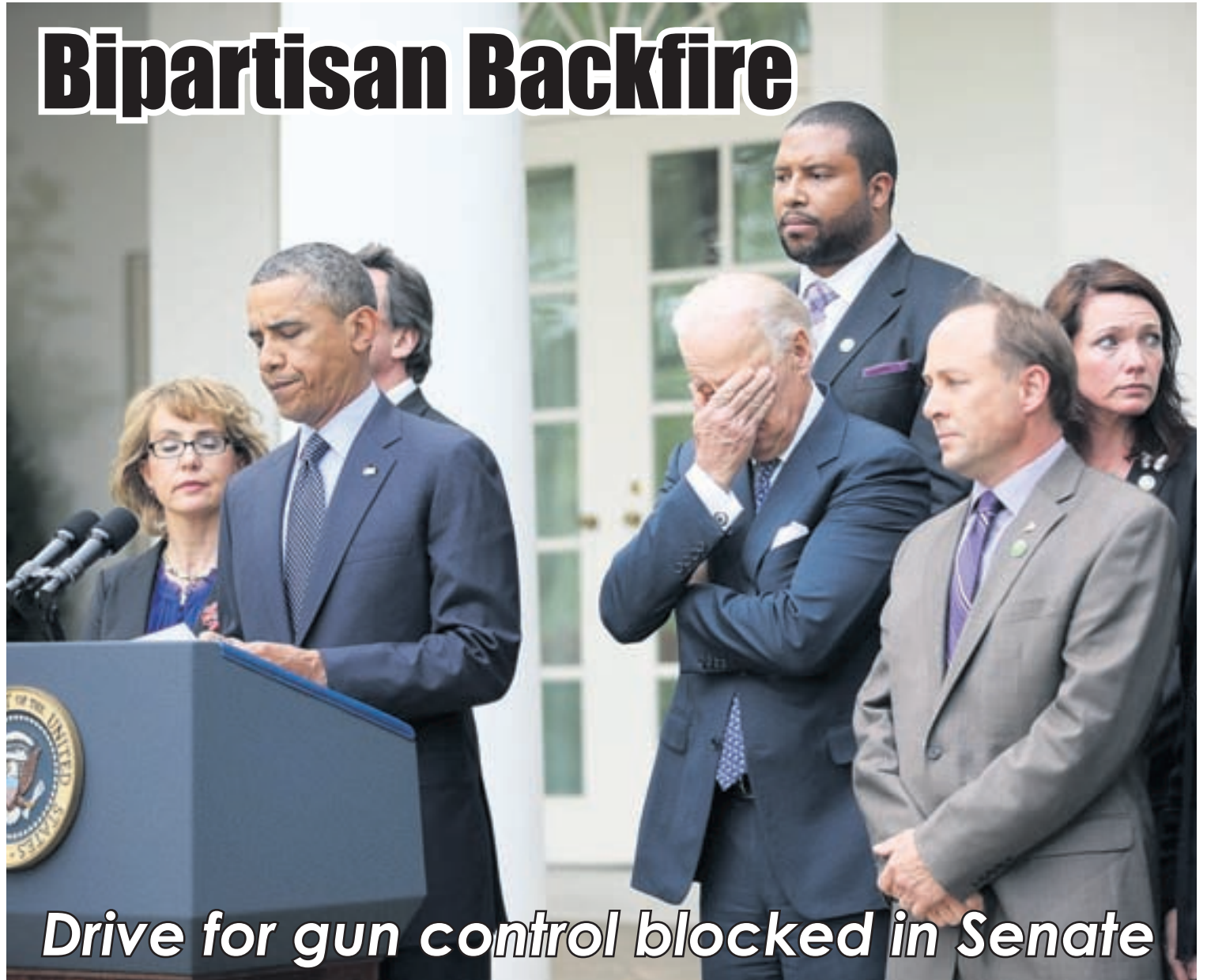
C. VINOGRAD
JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Margaret Thatcher was laid to rest Wednesday with prayers and ceremony, plus cheers and occasional jeers, as Britain paused to remember a leader who transformed the country — for the better according to many, but in some eyes for the worse.

Soaring hymns, Biblical verse and fond remembrances echoed under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, as 2,300 relatives, friends, colleagues and dignitaries attended a ceremonial funeral for Britain's only female prime minister. Queen Elizabeth II, current and former prime ministers and representatives from 170 countries were among the mourners packing the cathedral, where Bishop of London Richard Chartres spoke of the strong feelings Thatcher still evokes 23 years after leaving office. "The storm of conflicting opinions centers on the Mrs. Thatcher who became a symbolic figure — even an -ism," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Bipartisan Backfire



Drive for gun control blocked in Senate

President Barack Obama speaks at a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House, in Washington, April 17, 2013. A wrenching national search for solutions to the violence that left 20 children dead in Newtown, Conn., in December all but ended Wednesday after the Senate defeated several gun-related measures.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate blocked bipartisan legislation Wednesday aimed at tightening restrictions on the sale of firearms, a huge defeat for President Barack Obama and a rejection of personal pleas by families of the victims of last winter's mass elementary school shooting in Connecticut. An attempt to ban assault-style and a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines were also rejected in series of showdown votes four months after a gunman killed 20 school children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The background check

measure commanded a majority of senators, 54-46, but that was well short of the 60 votes needed to advance. Forty-one Republicans and five Democrats sided together to scuttle the plan. Speaking to the nation after the vote Obama said a minority the senators decided "it wasn't worth it" to protect the nation's children.

"All in all, this was a pretty shameful day for Washington," Obama said.

The vote was also jarring blow to the drive to curb firearms sparked by December's massacre of 26 young children and staff at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

Obama has made enactment of greater curbs a priority on his domestic agenda in the months since the massacre, making several trips outside Washington to try and build support. Last week, he traveled to Connecticut, and he invited several parents to fly back to Washington with him aboard Air Force One so they could personally lobby lawmakers.

To an unusual degree for professional politicians, some senators said afterward that they had not wanted to meet with the mothers and fathers of the dead, or said it was difficult to look at photographs that the parents carried of their

young children, now dead. Some of the parents of the Sandy Hook victims watched the votes from the spectators' gallery that rings the Senate floor. They were joined by relatives of victims of other mass shootings in Arizona, Virginia and Colorado.

The roll call was also a victory for the nation's most powerful gun lobby, the National Rifle Association, which opposed the plan as an ineffective infringement on gun rights.

The proposal would have required background checks for all transactions at gun shows and online.

Continued on Page 3

Britain's Iron Lady laid to rest

Continued from front

"It must be very difficult for those members of her family and those closely associated with her to recognize the wife, the mother and the grandmother in the mythological figure."

"There is an important place for debating policies and legacy ... but here and today is neither the time nor the place," he added. Security for the funeral — the largest in London for more than a decade — was tightened after bombings at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

More than 700 soldiers, sailors and air force personnel formed a ceremonial guard along the route taken by Thatcher's coffin to the cathedral, and around 4,000 police officers were on duty. But while thousands of supporters and a smaller number of opponents traded shouts and arguments, there was no

dren Mark and Carol reading "Beloved mother, always in our hearts" — was borne to the cathedral on a gun carriage drawn by six black horses.

Spectators lining the route broke into applause as the carriage passed by, although a few demonstrators staged silent protests by turning their backs on Thatcher's coffin. One man held a banner declaring "rest in shame."

An honor guard of soldiers in scarlet tunics and bearskin hats saluted the coffin as it approached St. Paul's, while red-coated veterans known as Chelsea Pensioners stood to attention on the steps. Guests inside the cathedral included Thatcher's political colleagues, rivals and her successors as prime minister: John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and

Bassey and composer Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Thatcher's tenure coincided with — and influenced — the fall of the Berlin Wall and the "Reagan revolution" in the United States. Former U.S. first lady Nancy Reagan and onetime Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, both invitees with close ties to Thatcher's leadership, were kept away from the funeral by age. Argentine Ambassador Alicia Castro declined an invitation amid continuing acrimony over the 1982 Falklands War.

The ceremony was traditional, dignified and very British. Mourners entered to music by British composers, including Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams, and the service featured hymns and readings chosen by Thatcher, who grew up as a grocer's daughter in a hard-working Methodist household.

There was a passage from



Dutch Crown Prince Willem Alexander leaves the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

Dutch crown prince hints at an informal monarchy

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander set the tone Wednesday for what could be a relatively laid-back monarchy, saying in his last major interview before he becomes king that his subjects don't have to address him as your majesty.

The prince's comments, in a pre-recorded television interview, are an indication that he could be an informal monarch more in the style of his grandmother, Queen Juliana — known for her folksy style and riding her bicycle in public — than his more formal mother, Queen Beatrix.

The 45-year-old prince and his Argentine-born wife, Princess Maxima, will become king and queen when Beatrix, abdicates

April 30 after 33 years on the throne.

"I'm not a protocol fetishist. People can address me however they want," Willem-Alexander said.

"For me, it is about people feeling at ease when I'm with them."

He also said he has no problem with protests during celebrations in Amsterdam to mark his ascent to the throne.

Protests also broke out during his mother's investiture in 1980.

"I'm convinced we are going to have a magnificent investiture day ... in Amsterdam, in which there will be opportunities for protest, and that is as it should be," he said.

Willem-Alexander said that after being groomed for years he is now confident he's ready to replace his mother. □



Irish Republicans celebrate with a cavalcade flying the Irish tricolor and republican flags through the Bogside area of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. The protesters were celebrating the funeral of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher earlier in the day.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

serious trouble. Police said there were no arrests, and the only items thrown at the cortege were flowers. Before the service, Thatcher's coffin was driven from the Houses of Parliament to the church of St. Clement Danes for prayers.

From there the coffin — draped in a Union flag and topped with white roses and a note from her chil-

former Vice President Dick Cheney were among the American dignitaries, while notable figures from Thatcher's era included F.W. de Klerk, the last apartheid-era leader of South Africa; former Polish President Lech Walesa; ex-Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney; and entertainers such as "Dynasty" star Joan Collins, singer Shirley

T.S. Eliot, a section of Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" and the patriotic hymn "I Vow to Thee, My Country."

The late leader's 19-year-old granddaughter Amanda Thatcher read a passage from Ephesians: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness." □

Drive for gun control blocked in Senate

Continued from front

Currently they must occur for sales handled by licensed gun dealers. Even before the vote began it was apparent that

fundamental right or face prosecution," said a statement from Chris Cox, a top lobbyist for the group. The votes, however, were unlikely to be the last word on an issue that Democrat-

ic leaders shied away from for nearly two decades until Obama picked up on it after the Newtown shootings. "This effort isn't over," Obama vowed at the

White House moments after the defeat. Obama, surrounded by Newtown relatives, said opponents of the legislation "caved to the pressure" of special interests in casting their vote. Vice President Joe Biden presided over the Senate, a symbolic move since each proposal required a 60-vote majority to pass and he would not be called upon to break any ties. Democratic aides said in advance the issue would be brought back to the Senate in the future, giving gun control supporters more time to win over converts to change the outcome. The day's key test concerned the background checks, designed to prevent criminals and the seriously mentally ill from purchasing firearms. Under current law, checks are required only when guns are purchased from federally licensed firearms dealers.

The proposal by Manchin and Toomey called for extending the requirement to other sales at gun shows and on the Internet. Their bipartisan approach was widely seen as advocates' best chance for winning enough Republican votes to change current law in a way that Obama and gun control groups support. But foes had proposals of their own, including one that would require states that issue concealed weapons permits to honor the permits from other states. Numerous polls in recent months have shown support for enhanced gun control measures, including background checks, though it may be weakening. An Associated Press-GfK poll this month showed that 49 percent of Americans support stricter gun laws, down from 58 percent in January. □



Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., right, speaks as Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., third from left, hugs Carlee Soto, sister of Sandy Hook teacher Victoria Soto, second from left, and Erica Lafferty, daughter of Sandy Hook principal Dawn Hochsprung, after a vote on gun legislation on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

bill was in deep trouble with a growing number of Senators saying they would vote against the measure.

In the hours before the key vote, Sen. Joe Manchin, one of the bill's sponsors, bluntly accused the National Rifle Association of making false claims about the expansion of background checks that he and Sen. Pat Toomey were backing.

"I don't know how to put the words any plainer than this: That is a lie. That is simply a lie," he said, accusing the organization of telling its supporters that friends, neighbors and some family members would need federal permission to transfer ownership of firearms to one another.

The NRA did not respond immediately to the charge, but issued a statement after the vote that restated the claim. The proposal "would have criminalized certain private transfers of firearms between honest citizens, requiring lifelong friends, neighbors and some family members to get federal government permission to exercise a

FBI: US man arrested, accused in ricin letters

HOLBROOK MOHR
Associated Press

OXFORD, Mississippi (AP) — A man in the state of Mississippi has been arrested and accused of sending letters with suspected ricin poison to President Barack Obama and other leaders. FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel McMullen said the man was arrested Wednesday. His name wasn't immediately released publicly.

Authorities still waited for definitive tests on the letters to Obama and Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, which had raised concern Wednesday at a time when many people were jittery after the Boston bombings.

An FBI intelligence bulletin obtained by The Associated Press said those two letters were postmarked Memphis, Tennessee.

Letters sent to President Barack Obama and a Mississippi senator tested positive for poisonous ricin in preliminary checks,

and authorities chased a stream of false alarms about seemingly suspicious packages and mail sent

to become a silent partner to its continuance." Both were signed, "I am KC and I approve this message."



A Prince George's County, Md. firefighter, left, gets dressed in a protective suit before going into a government mail screening facility in Hyattsville, Md., Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

to senators in Washington and beyond.

An FBI intelligence bulletin obtained by The Associated Press said those two letters were postmarked Memphis, Tennessee. Both letters said: "To see a wrong and not expose it, is

The letters were intercepted before reaching the White House or Senate. The FBI said Wednesday that more testing was underway. Preliminary field tests can often show false positives for ricin.

As authorities scurried to

investigate three questionable packages discovered in Senate office buildings, reports of suspicious items also came in from at least three senators' offices in their home states.

Sen. Carl Levin said a staff member at his Saginaw, Michigan, office would spend the night in a hospital as a precaution after discovering a suspicious letter. The staff member had no symptoms, Levin said in a statement. He expected to learn preliminary results of tests on the letter by Thursday.

Sen. Jeff Flake said suspicious letters at his Phoenix office had been cleared with nothing dangerous found. A package at Sen. John Cornyn's Dallas-area office also was declared harmless, a fire department spokesman said.

All three packages in the Capitol complex turned out to be safe, Capitol police spokeswoman Makema Turner said late Wednesday. □

Boston official: Video footage shows bomb suspect



Investigators comb through the scene of one of the blast sites of the Boston Marathon explosions, Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Boston.

DENISE LAVOIE
RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — In what could be a major break in the case of the Boston Marathon, investigators are on the hunt for a man seen in a department-store sur-

veillance video dropping off a bag at the site of the bombings that killed three people, a Boston politician said Wednesday. Separately, a law enforcement official confirmed that authorities have found an image of a potential

suspect but don't know his name. Meanwhile, the third victim was identified as Boston University graduate student Lu Lingzi by The Shenyang Evening News, a state-run Chinese newspaper. Wednesday's develop-

ments — less than 48 hours after the attack that more than 170 wounded at the world's oldest and most prestigious marathon — marked a possible turning point in a case that has investigators analyzing photos and videos frame by

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

frame for clues to who carried out the twin bombings and why.

City Council President Stephen Murphy, who said he was briefed by Boston police, said investigators saw the image on surveillance footage they got from a department store near the finish line, and matched the findings with witness descriptions of someone leaving the scene.

"I know it's very active and very fluid right now — that they are on the chase," Murphy told The Associated Press. He added: "They may be on the verge of arresting someone, and that's good." The bombs were crudely fashioned from ordinary kitchen pressure cookers packed with explosives, nails and ball bearings, investigators and others close to the case said. Investigators suspect the devices were then hidden in black duffel bags and left on the ground.

As a result, they were looking for images of someone lugging a dark, heavy bag. One department store video "has confirmed that a suspect is seen dropping a bag near the point of the second explosion and heading off," Murphy said. A law enforcement official who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity and was not authorized to discuss the case publicly confirmed only that investigators had an image of a potential suspect whose name was not known to them and who had not been questioned.

The turn of events came with Boston in a state of high excitement over conflicting reports of a breakthrough.

A law enforcement official briefed on the investigation told the AP around midday that a suspect was in custody. The official, who was not authorized to divulge details of the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suspect was expected in federal court. But the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office in Boston said no arrests had been made. □

Testimony ends for 1st phase of BP oil spill trial

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Testimony concluded Wednesday for the first phase of a high-stakes trial over the deadly 2010 rig explosion that led to the nation's worst offshore oil spill, but the presiding judge didn't immediately rule in the case. After BP PLC wrapped up its defense on the trial's 29th day, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier announced he would give the parties more than two months to submit written briefs outlining their conclusions about the case.

"There's a huge amount of evidence for the court and parties to consider," Barbier

said.

The trial began Feb. 25 and included testimony by witnesses for the federal government, a team of private plaintiffs' attorneys, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton.

The first phase of trial was intended to identify the causes of the blowout of BP's Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico and assign fault to the companies. The trial's second phase, scheduled to start in September, is designed to determine how much crude spilled into the Gulf and would explore BP's efforts to stop the flow of oil.

Barbier heard eight weeks of testimony without a jury.

Barring a settlement, he could decide how much more money BP and its contractors owe for the disaster. The blowout triggered a blast that killed 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig. Millions of gallons of oil spewed into the Gulf, polluting beaches and marshes, killing wildlife and closing fishing grounds. BP has already pleaded guilty to manslaughter and other criminal charges and agreed to pay \$4 billion in criminal penalties. The company says it has racked up a total of more than \$24 billion in spill-related expenses, including cleanup costs and compensation for businesses and individuals.

But the company still faces billions more in civil claims by the federal government and Gulf Coast states under the Clean Water Act and other environmental regulations.

The price tag for BP would soar if Barbier agrees with claims by the Justice Department and private plaintiffs' attorneys that BP acted with gross negligence before the blowout. Under the Clean Water Act, a polluter can be forced to pay a minimum of \$1,100 per barrel of spilled oil. The fines nearly quadruple to about \$4,300 a barrel for companies found grossly negligent, meaning BP could be on the hook for nearly \$18 billion. □

Officials: Ex-judge's wife confessed in DA deaths

DANNY ROBBINS

Associated Press

KAUFMAN, Texas (AP) —

The wife of a former judge was charged with capital murder after confessing to her involvement in the three shooting deaths of the local district attorney, his wife and an assistant prosecutor, authorities in Texas said Wednesday.

Kim Williams was arrested early Wednesday, a day after she told investigators that she and her husband, Eric Williams, were involved in the shootings of the Kaufman County district attorney, his wife and one of his prosecutors, according to documents in the case. Eric Williams has not been charged in the killings.

The affidavit says Kim Lene Williams "described in detail her role along with that of her husband" but was unclear on who she said committed the shooting. Kaufman County District Attorney Mike McLelland and assistant prosecutor Mark Hasse prosecuted Eric Williams last year for theft of three computer

monitors. Williams was convicted and sentenced to probation. He also lost his elected position as justice

said he had learned from other officers and county employees that Hasse and Mike McLelland both

investigation but said families of the victims would be briefed on the case. Eric Williams was arrested

previously said authorities were trying to build a case against him in the prosecutors' slayings while he remains jailed on a \$3 million bond. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the ongoing investigation. The official said ballistics experts were testing at least 20 weapons found in a storage locker under Eric Williams' name at a facility near Dallas.

A Ford Crown Victoria similar to one recorded in the McLellands' neighborhood around the time the couple was killed was parked at the storage facility, the official said.

Jail records did not list an attorney for Kim Williams. A message left with her husband's attorney was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Williams has said that after the McLellands' deaths and after Hasse was gunned down Jan. 31 near the county courthouse, he submitted to gunshot residue tests and turned over his cellphone. □



A law enforcement officer grabs a bag from the back of his vehicle after arriving at Gibson Self Storage Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in Seagoville, Texas.

(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

of the peace — a judge who handles mostly administrative duties — and his law license.

McLelland and his wife, Cynthia, were found dead March 30, two months after Hasse was slain.

The officer who signed the affidavit, Kaufman County Sheriff's Sgt. Matt Woodall,

believed Williams blamed them for the loss of his job and carried handguns after the trial because they thought he was "a threat to their personal safety."

Kim Williams was jailed on \$10 million bond, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Justin Lewis said. He declined to answer questions about the

Saturday and charged with making terroristic threats. A probable cause affidavit says the ex-judge sent an email one day after the McLellands' bodies were discovered implying there would be another attack if authorities didn't respond to various demands. A law enforcement official

Plea expected for alleged cannibal

BEL AIR, Maryland (AP) — A prosecutor says a man accused of cannibalism is expected to plead guilty but not criminally responsible in the slaying of a man staying with his family. Charging documents state Alex Kinyua, a 22-year-old former Morgan State University student, told authorities that he ate the heart and brain of the Ghanaian man he was charged with killing in 2012. Harford County State's Attorney Joseph

Cassilly said Wednesday that Kinyua is expected to enter the plea to first-degree murder. His attorney's office declined comment. The slaying came days after Kinyua, a U.S. citizen originally from Kenya, was charged in an on-campus beating that blinded another man. He entered the same plea to attempted murder in that attack, meaning he would be confined to a mental health facility, not prison. □

AURA CASINO

LIVE POKER
LIVE ACTION GAMES
DAILY TOURNAMENTS AT 8PM

Nightly **FREE Bingo @9:30pm** Win up to \$1000.
DAILY BINGO ON SUN-WED-FRI. FOR ONLY \$6
WIN CASH PRIZES AND MORE....

Hold-Em and Omaha Pot Limit
SPORTS BOOK OPEN DAILY:

Monday and Tuesday open from 11am - 11pm
 Wednesday to Sunday open from 11am - 1am



ALL SPORTS & ALL
MAJOR TRACKS
AVAILABLE

Be There!

We are more pleased to have you!
 AURA Casino • J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 83
Occidental Casino Aruba
 Phone: 586-0705 ext: 322
 E-mail: info@thecasinoaruba.com



BENLO CIGARS
 Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555
 Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper, Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.
Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.
With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR
Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!

Immigration Reform: Conservatives grapple with turning tide



Evangelical Christian pastors gather for what they billed as a national day of prayer to support the immigration legislation in Washington, April 17, 2013.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

**MICHAEL D. SHEAR
JULIA PRESTON**

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON – Only hours after a bipartisan group of eight senators introduced a sweeping overhaul of the nation's immigration system, conservative radio talk show hosts took over two floors of a Capitol Hill hotel on Wednesday and denounced the proposal on the country's drive-time airwaves as nothing more than a reward for law-breakers.

On a Florida station, WFTL, the host Joyce Kaufman called it "pure amnesty." Jim Sharpe, a talk show host on KFYI in Phoenix, promised that "Arizonans are still not taking this sitting down." On Denny Schaffer's show in New Orleans, callers demanded deportations.

"I see nothing wrong with putting them on a bus and shipping them back to wherever they came from," a caller named Alan told Schaffer. "The law's the law."

But even some of the most vehement anti-immigration talk show hosts said they were worried that times have changed. They said their listeners seemed less

agitated by the prospect that 11 million undocumented immigrants might be granted legal status and concede that proponents of the legislation – who now include some conservative radio personalities – are better at promoting their message this time around. The senators filed their 844-page bill after 2 a.m. Wednesday, officially kicking off what President Barack Obama and other supporters hope will be a six-week effort to pass it in the Senate by early June. Hearings on the legislation, which tightens border security and offers an eventual path to citizenship, are set to begin on Friday.

Opponents of the measure are eager to harness the conservative airwaves the way they did in 2007, when talk radio hosts helped whip up a fury of outrage that doomed similar legislation supported by President George W. Bush. This time there were 46 talk radio hosts sharing booths in the Phoenix Park Hotel, where they bent over their microphones and broadcast to places like Albany, Salt Lake City and Huntsville, Ala.

"So far this has been an

inside-the-Beltway echo chamber," said Bob Dane, a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which organized the gathering. "What they have not had yet is a good, cold blast of air in the face from the rank-and-file conservative. We now have a bill. This is the game-changer where the American public is now starting to weigh in."

But how the public weighs in – and what they say when they call in to the shows – remains an open question.

Sean Hannity, who in 2007 used his nationally syndicated radio program and perch at Fox News to rail against an immigration overhaul, now says that he has "evolved" and that it is time for Republicans to support some kind of major change in the nation's immigration system. Opposition from some Republican lawmakers has softened in the wake of the 2012 presidential election, when Obama won the vast majority of Hispanic votes. Evangelical Christians, many of whom were opposed to an overhaul in 2007, are now among the biggest supporters. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

Q: I thought the commercials were supposed to be no louder than the other television programming. It does not seem to have happened. Has it gone into effect?

-- **Martha Hunt, Hoschton, Ga.**

A: The Federal Communications Commission's Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act, which states that TV commercials must have the same average volume as the programs they accompany, went into effect Dec. 13.

"A commercial may have louder and quieter moments, but, overall, it should be no louder than the surrounding programming. This may mean, however, that some commercials will comply with the new rules, but still sound 'too loud' to some viewers," the FCC states on its website.

To register a complaint, go to www.fcc.gov/complaints and click on "Complaint Type" button labeled "Broadcast (TV and Radio), Cable, and Satellite Issues" and hit next. Then click on the category button "Loud Commercials" and hit next. This will direct you to file the online "Form 2000G -- Loud Commercial Complaint." For assistance in filing a complaint, call 888-225-5322.

Q: Are those live bird chirps we hear on the Masters' telecast or are they added by the network?

-- **Doug Messerlie, Dunwoody, Ga.**

A: All sounds are natural, an Augusta National spokesman told Q-and-A on the News in an email.

Q: Has former Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Beverly Hall been charged with any wrongdoing in connection with the cheating scandal that occurred on her watch?

-- **David George, Atlanta**

A: Hall was indicted and charged with racketeering in the 2009 APS cheating scandal. Hall and 34 others -- including six principals, two assistant principals and six testing coordinators -- were named in a 65-count indictment on March 29. Included in the other charges: two counts of influencing a witness, five of theft by taking, and the remaining counts concerned the crime of making false statements or writings.

"Beverly Hall placed unreasonable emphasis on achieving targets; protected and rewarded those who achieved targets through cheating; terminated principals who failed to achieve targets; and ignored suspicious CRCT score gains," the indictment said. "As a result, cheating became more and more prevalent within APS."

Their bonds initially ranged from \$7.5 million for Hall and \$4 million for Millicent Few, Michael Pitts, Sharon Davis-Williams and Tamara Cotman down to \$200,000 for others, but most later were reduced through negotiations with Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Q: I saw a video of Jack Andraka, who has invented an early detection test for pancreatic cancer. Has a pharmaceutical company picked this up?

-- **Carol Murphy, Woodstock, Ga.**

A: Several pharmaceutical companies are reportedly interested in what has been described as Andraka's "potentially revolutionary" test for pancreatic cancer, but it remains in the developmental stage. Andraka, a 16-year-old high school sophomore from Crownsville, Md., developed the test in 2011, and recently told National Geographic that his "test costs three cents, takes five minutes to run, doesn't require specialized training, and it's a lot smaller than the current test." □

Fed survey: Housing, auto sales lifting US economy

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strengthening housing recovery and robust auto sales contributed to moderate economic growth across the United States in late February and March, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday.

Growth was moderate or modest in all of the Fed's 12 banking districts, and it accelerated in two — New York and Dallas — from January and early February.

The survey suggested that the economy performed better in March than some government data on hiring and consumer spending had indicated. That could mean the economic weakness might have been temporary.

The Fed survey, which is based on anecdotal reports, found that hiring was unchanged or improved slightly compared with the previous report. And it noted that consumer spending — which drives most of the economy — grew modestly. But the report also said higher taxes and a spike in gas prices had slowed sales.

By contrast, the Labor Department said earlier this month that job growth slowed sharply in March. And retail sales declined in March by the most in nine months, a separate report said last week.

Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse, said the survey "is consistent with the larger picture of steady if unspectacular growth." "We get caught up in the monthly volatility of the data, and we need to step back," she said.

Zach Pandl, an economist at Columbia Management, an investment firm, said the survey's rosier tone is probably one reason that several Fed policymakers have recently expressed optimism despite sluggish economic data.

The Fed survey said the recovery in home construction is gaining momentum and creating more construction jobs. It's also

boosting factory output of housing-related goods, such as lumber.

The report did note some weak spots. Several districts said manufacturers of defense-related goods had cut jobs in response to government spending cuts that started taking effect March

gram, which began last fall. At their last meeting March 19-20, a majority of Fed officials said they favored continuing the bond purchases at least through the middle of this year. But many members indicated that they want to start winding down the program before year's

end, as long as hiring and the economy continued to improve.

Since that meeting, some government reports had suggested that the economy weakened in March. Employers added only 88,000 jobs in March, a sharp slowdown from aver-

age gains of 220,000 in November through February. And consumers cut back on spending at retail stores and restaurants last month, a sign that higher Social Security taxes might have made more Americans cautious about spending. Still, reports on housing and autos continue to signal strength. In March, builders broke the 1 million mark on homes started for the first time since June 2008. The increase in the seasonally adjusted annual rate for March was fueled by a surge in apartment construction.

And U.S. auto sales rose to 1.45 million in March, their highest level since August 2007. Car sales fell slightly from last March, but pickup sales jumped 14 percent. Economists forecast that the economy grew at a 3 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter, a healthy rebound from a scant 0.4 percent increase in the fourth quarter. But most now think growth will slow sharply to about 1.5 percent in the April-June quarter. □



Repairman Jerry Garcia works on an engine on the assembly line at the Ford Cleveland Engine Plant 1, in Brook Park, Ohio. A strengthening housing recovery and robust auto sales contributed to moderate economic growth across the United States in late February and March, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday, April 17, 2013. (AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

1. Still, it said that growth overall was moderate, an upgrade from the "modest to moderate" pace in the previous two reports.

The Fed report, called the Beige Book, provides an overview of economic conditions from Feb. 22 through April 5. The information will be discussed along with other economic data during the Fed's next policy meeting April 30-May 1.

At that meeting, most analysts expect the Fed to maintain its low interest rate policies but take no new steps. The Fed is expected to stick with its plan to keep short-term interest rates at record lows at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent. And it will likely continue buying \$85 billion a month in Treasury and mortgage bonds to try to keep long-term rates low and encourage borrowing, spending and investing.

Debate has heated up among Fed policymakers about when to start curtail- ing the bond-buying pro-

WE ARE **ISLAND FRESH** AND
WE SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS.

OUR VEGETABLES ARE GROWN ON OUR ISLAND THROUGH CUTTING-EDGE HYDROPONIC FARMING.
FIND OUT WHAT MAKES BUYING LOCAL DELICIOUS, NUTRITIOUS, AND COST-EFFECTIVE.
JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL. FIND OUT MORE AT ISLANDFRESHARUBA.COM.

**MASHA DANKI TO THE FOLLOWING
LOYAL FINE ESTABLISHMENTS**

AMAZONIA	CAFE DE PLAZA	HYATT	NEW FOOD	SENSEI SUSHI
AMSTERDAM MANOR	CASA TUA	LA CABANA	THE PADDOCK	SUBWAY
AMORE MIO	CHALET SUISSE	LE BISTRO	PAPIAMENTO	SUPERFOOD
AZZURRO	DANIEL'S	LING AND SONS	PAPILLON	TANGO
BAVARIA	DIVI HOTELS	MADAME JANETTE	RADISSON	TASTE OF BELGIUM
BUCCANEER	FARO BLANCO	MANCHEBO RESORT	SALT AND PEPPER	THE KITCHEN
BUCUTI RESORT	GIANNI'S	MARRIOTT	SAVE A LOT	VENTANAS DEL MAR
BUSTER'S GARAGE	HADICURARI	MOOMBA	SCREAMING EAGLE	WACKY WAHOO'S

ASK FOR OUR VEGETABLES TODAY

ISLAND
Fresh
vegetables

Assad accuses West of backing al-Qaida in Syria

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's president accused the West on Wednesday of backing al-Qaida in his country's civil war, warning it will pay a price "in the heart" of Europe and the United States as the terror network becomes emboldened.

Bashar Assad also lashed out at Jordan for allowing "thousands" of fighters to enter Syria through its borders and warned that the "fire will not stop at Syria's border."

The rare TV interview with the government-run Al-Khbariya channel marking Syria's independence day comes as the embattled president's military is fighting to reverse rebel advances, with a rocket attack killing at least 12 people in a central village on Wednesday.

"Just as the West financed al-Qaida in Afghanistan in its beginnings, and later paid a heavy price, today it is supporting it in Syria, Libya and other places and will pay the price later in the heart of Europe and the United States," Assad said.

He offered no evidence to back his charge that the U.S. was now backing the international terror group responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Extremist groups such as the al-Qaida-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra are gaining ground in Syria's two-year civil war. Jabhat al-Nusra, or the Nusra Front, has emerged as the most effective force among the mosaic of rebel units fighting to topple Assad.

Last week, Nusra Front leader Abu Mohammad al-Gonali pledged allegiance to al-Qaida's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Washington has designated Jabhat al-Nusra a terrorist organization over its links with al-Qaida. The Obama administration opposes directly arming Syrian opposition fighters, in part out of fear that the weapons could fall into the hands of Islamic extremists such as the Nusra Front.

Earlier this year, the U.S. announced a \$60 million non-lethal assistance package for Syria that includes meals and medical supplies for the armed opposition.

On Wednesday, Russian

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized an upcoming meeting of the Friends of Syria group in Istanbul — which brings together Western and Arab supporters of the Syrian opposition — and said efforts to isolate

Assad and to arm the opposition were strengthening Islamic militants. "If the priority is peace, changes and democratic reforms, it's necessary to force the warring parties to sit down for talks. If Assad's depar-

ture is the priority, the cost of such geopolitical approach will be more casualties," Lavrov said.

"If we allow those making the emphasis on (a) military solution to control the situation, those horrors ... will multiply and the terrorists' influence in the region will grow," he added.

The Syrian conflict began with largely peaceful protests demanding reforms and eventually turned into an insurgency and war in response to a brutal military crackdown on the protesters. More than 70,000 people have been killed, according to the United Nations.

In the hour-long interview, Assad also criticized Jordan, accusing it of allowing "thousands" of fighters to enter Syria across its borders. His comments follow statements from U.S. and other Western and Arab officials that Jordan has been facilitating arms shipments and hosting training camps for Syrian rebels since last October. □



Syrian President Bashar Assad, right, during an interview broadcast on Syrian state television in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Assad accused the West on Wednesday of backing al-Qaida in his country's civil war, warning it will pay a price "in the heart" of Europe and the United States as the terror network becomes emboldened. (AP Photo/SANA)

Iran condemns Boston blast, criticizes US policy

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's top leader on Wednesday condemned the twin bombing attacks in Boston, yet chided the U.S. for employing a double standard when it comes to drone attacks that kill innocent civilians.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, which follows the logic of Islam, is opposed to any bombings and killings of innocent people no matter if it is in Boston, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria and condemns it," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Iranian military leaders he was addressing in Tehran.

Khamenei criticized the U.S. for killing people with drones in Pakistan and Afghanistan and backing forces that kill others in Iraq and Syria.

"What kind of logic is this that if children and women are killed by Americans in Afghanistan and Pakistan and by U.S.-backed terrorists in Iraq and Syria is not

a problem, but if a bombing happens in the U.S. or another Western country, the whole world should pay the cost?" he asked in his comments, which were posted on his website.

Iran is the chief regional

ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad and is considered close to Iraq's Shiite Muslim-dominated government.

Khamenei charged that such double standards would lead to the demise

of Western civilization.

"Western civilization is on the verge of collapse and downfall because of contradictions, lack of logic, coercions and lack of care for human principles," he said. □



Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addresses a group of Iranian military commanders in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Iran's top leader has condemned the bombing attack in Boston but at the same time charged that U.S. policies employ a double standard.

(AP Photo/Office of the Supreme Leader)



Celebrating our 25th anniversary with YOU!
Present this Ad receive \$20 discount per couple

- Champagne Brunch
- Beach & Cave Tour
- Sunset Cruise
- Wet'n Wild- Jeep Tour
- Sail & Snorkel

Pelican Pier (between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort), Holiday Inn Towel Hut Center, Holiday Inn Concierge, Holiday Inn Lobby, Westin Aruba Poolside, Westin Aruba Lower Lobby, Casa Del Mar Beach Resort.
Or book online at www.pelican-aruba.com



For reservation call:
5872302 or 5861455 (Sundays)

European car sales plummet, even in solid Germany

COLLEEN BARRY
AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — Europe's auto market is in freefall. Once the motor for Europe's economy, the car industry has fallen victim to the region's widening recession and soaring unemployment. Carmakers have suffered 18 straight months of declining sales as people worried that they might soon be out of a job put off making big purchases.

New car sales across Europe slid 10 percent in the first quarter of 2013 to 2.9 million, down from 3.3 million in 2012, the European automakers association ACEA reported from Brussels on Wednesday. Even in Germany, one of Europe's strongest economies, new car sales plunged 13 percent during the first three months of the year.

Across the rest of Europe, the figures were just as disappointing. Most major markets saw double-digit contractions: down 11.5



New vehicles waiting to be shipped at a car deposit in Piedimonte San Germano, some 130 kilometers south of Rome. New car sales across Europe slid 10 percent in the first quarter of 2013 to 2.9 million, down from 3.3 million in 2012, the European automakers association ACEA reported from Brussels on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Luca Van Brantegem)

percent in Spain, 13 percent in Italy and 14.6 percent in France.

The German fall — which was felt across the country's domestic industry from Volkswagen to Mercedes — took analysts by surprise. The country, after all, was still relatively prosperous.

"How can it be so bad when employment and

economic growth remain solid?" said Max Warburton of Bernstein Research. The answer lies in the demand-sapping problems of Europe's debt crisis. The economy of the 27-country European Union is on the verge of a recession after it contracted 0.5 percent in the last quarter of 2012 while unemployment

is at nearly 11 percent. This has drained consumers across the EU of any confidence to make big-ticket purchases like a new car. Based on ACEA's figures, Ian Fletcher, a London-based auto analyst with IHS, expects European sales to fall 3.3 percent overall this year to 11.8 million units. By comparison, many expect U.S. sales to reach 15.5 million for 2013, while sales in China could top 20 million.

The fortunes of its car industry have a big impact on the rest of Europe because any downturn it suffers is felt across the whole region. According to the ACEA, the auto industry directly employs 2.3 million — mainly highly skilled — people and supports about another 10 million jobs among the carmakers' suppliers. The declining car market in Europe has been weighing on global carmakers' bot-

tom lines. Last year, four of the biggest automakers based in Europe — Ford, PSA Peugeot, Fiat and General Motors — together posted operating losses of 5 billion euros (\$7 billion) for the region.

According to the ACEA, in the first three months of 2013 General Motors saw sales drop 13 percent, PSA Peugeot sales were down 15 percent, Ford was down by 20 percent, Toyota 18 percent and Fiat 9 percent.

In the premium market, which had continued to sell well as the mass market slumped, manufacturers were starting to feel the pinch. BMW was down a slight 0.9 percent while Daimler rose 0.2 percent. For the time being, orders from around the rest of the world help cover carmakers' European losses — but that is something executives say cannot last. □

Russian opposition leader's trial adjourned

MAX SEDDON
Associated Press

KIROV, Russia (AP) — The embezzlement trial of a Russian opposition leader was adjourned for a week shortly after it started Wednesday in a northwestern city besieged by hundreds of activists and journalists. In the evening, hundreds more rallied in Moscow to show their support.

Lawyer and anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny, who spearheaded anti-government protests in 2011, and his former colleague are accused of leading an organized criminal group that embezzled 16 million rubles (\$500,000) worth of timber from a

state-owned company in the city of Kirov.

The charges not only threaten to send the 36-year-old Navalny to prison, but strike at the essence of his image as an anti-corruption activist. Navalny says the charges are an act of revenge for his exposure of high-level corruption.

As the trial began, several dozen activists protested in support of Navalny outside the courthouse in Kirov, chanting, "We will not let you go!"

At the Moscow rally, Lyudmila Alexeyeva, an 85-year-old human rights activist and former Soviet dissident, was among those who spoke out in Na-

valny's defense.

"Everyone present here is well aware that he is not guilty of what he is accused of and everyone present here knows that in spite of this he will be found guilty," Alexeyeva told the crowd. "This is our justice system."

Navalny's lawyer, Olga Mikhailova, asked the court in her opening remarks to adjourn the trial for a month, because her client wasn't given enough time to read the case files. Mikhailova also contested the court's refusal to submit financial documents that could prove that what the prosecutors describe as embezzlement was a regular business deal. □

Endless Shrimp Dishes!!

AT

Baci Ristorante

Every Friday we start you off with a bowl of our home made minestrone soup accompanied by all you can eat bread sticks served with marinara sauce and an olive oil and balsamic vinegar dressing.

Afterwards, choose your favorite shrimp pasta:

Linguine, Fettuccine or Penne

and toss it with favorite sauce:

Alfredo, Fresh Pomodoro or Classic Italian Provencale.

Still room for some **more shrimp?**

Go ahead choose the same pasta and sauce combination or alternate as you desire and enjoy!

Available Every Friday from 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm

25

per person
 service charge and local tax not included

THE WESTIN
 RESORT & CASINO
 ARUBA

for reservations call **586-4466**



Serbia, Kosovo again look for EU-brokered deal

DON MELVIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo tried again Wednesday to resolve their differences af-

ter an earlier EU-brokered proposal was rejected.

At issue is the thorniest issue to divide the two — the status of northern Kosovo, which is inhabited pre-

dominantly by ethnic Serbs who reject the authority of the government in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

A European Union spokeswoman said late Wednes-

day that Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dacic and Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci had resumed their talks after a break of more than two hours. Their first session lasted about four-and-a-half hours.

The face-to-face meetings were being mediated by European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton. In preparation, each leader held an individual meeting with Ashton.

After the last meeting, held in Brussels earlier this month, failed to produce an agreement, Ashton said she would sponsor no more mediation sessions, and it was up to the parties to accept or reject what was on the table. But last week, Serbia rejected the proposal, a decision that could jeopardize its hopes for membership in the EU and fuel tensions in the region.

The sticking point is the situ-

ation in northern Kosovo, where many ethnic Serbs say they will never accept the jurisdiction of the government in Pristina, which is dominated by ethnic Albanians.

The Serbs in northern Kosovo have created so-called parallel institutions, including hospitals and schools, all financed and supported from the Serbian capital, Belgrade.

Kosovo, a former Serbian province, declared independence in 2008. While many other countries have recognized it as an independent nation, Serbia has not.

However, one condition for Serbia's eventual membership in the European Union is that it "normalize" relations with its neighbors. Kosovo Prime Minister Thaci said Wednesday that "once again we have come here with the best intention of agreement." □



Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaci talks with journalists as he arrives for a meeting with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton at the European Diplomatic Service headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday April 17, 2013. (AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert)

French execs accused of breast implant swindle

LORI HINNANT

Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France (AP)

— The computer records were scrubbed, inspectors said there was no mention of industrial silicone in quality-control documents, and an employee at the factory in southern France said they were instructed not to ask too many questions about the breast implants sold worldwide.

As a fraud trial opened Wednesday, hundreds of women who crowded into a makeshift courtroom were not the only ones claiming they were cheated by Poly Implant Prothese, which is accused of using cheap silicone to fill tens of thousands of implants that were prone to ruptures and leaking.

A former employee and the company that cleared PIP for certification said in interviews outside the court that they too were victims of the five former PIP executives on trial, and offered a glimpse into what they said was a years-long deception.

Jean-Claude Mas, who founded and ran the

now-defunct company, is among those facing trial in the southern city of Marseille on charges of fraud and swindling. The company had claimed its factory in France exported to more than 60 countries and was one of the world's leading implant makers. The implants were not available in the United States, but more than 125,000 women worldwide received them until sales ended in March 2010. Of those, more than 5,000 are joining the trial, saying the executives misled them into believing the silicone gel implants were safe. Mas' lawyers said the number of women listed in the case as victims is the largest in French judicial history and argued that the trial was too unwieldy to continue. The packed hearing room had six large-screen televisions placed at even intervals to allow even those at the back to see, and judges frequently admonished spectators into silence.

Nathalie De Michel, who received the implants, said Wednesday she wanted Mas to acknowledge re-

sponsibility.

"We have the impression that he doesn't care. I want him at least to recognize that he made mistakes," she said.

Yves Haddad, Mas' lawyer, said his client was prepared: "He was ready to be here and to answer questions, and thinking about those who joined the case, even if it seems odd to some."

A former employee, who attended the trial Wednesday but asked not to be named because of the criminal allegations, said those who worked at the plant were told not to ask too many questions, even when women complained directly about medical problems. The employee said he suffered lung problems he blamed on years of handling unknown

chemicals.

As investigators began uncovering the fraud, he said workers at the plant grabbed tubs of toxic materials and dumped them into the sewers to avoid detection. A lawyer for TUV Rheinland, the Germany company that cleared PIP for certification, said its inspectors were also victims of a company-wide deception. □



Plaintiffs arrive at the Parc Chanot temporary courthouse in Marseille, Southern France, to attend the trial of Jean-Claude Mas, who founded and ran breast implant-maker Poly Implant Prothese, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. (AP Photo/Claude Paris)

Venezuela high court chief: No basis for recount

FRANK BAJAK
JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Venezuela's Supreme Court president said Wednesday there is no legal basis for holding a vote-by-vote recount that opposition candidate Henrique Capriles is demanding for the disputed presidential election.

It was the latest indication that the governing system left behind by Hugo Chavez when he died of cancer last month has no intention of agreeing to Capriles' request. He claims Sunday's election was stolen from him.

Capriles has not formally filed a request for a recount with the National Electoral Council, which on Monday ratified Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's anointed successor, as the winner. The council says Maduro won with 50.8 percent of the vote to Capriles' 49 percent.

Judge Luisa Estela Morales, the Supreme Court chief, said Venezuela's voting system is so automated that a manual count doesn't exist. Technically, however, a recount is possible as paper receipts are issued for every vote cast and can

be checked against tallies done by each voting machine, voter registries and centralized records.

"This presumed instigation to a manual count has angered many Venezuelans," said Morales, whose court, like all of Venezuela's national government institutions, is packed with Chavista loyalists. What was unusual about her statement is that it was impromptu, unrelated to any specific court case.

Morales is the same judge who issued a controversial decision three days after Chavez's March 5 death saying that Maduro effectively became president at the moment of his mentor's passing. That enabled Maduro to be sworn in the same day as acting president.

Analysts say Capriles has few options, given Maduro's solid hold on all the levers of power, including the loyalty of the military high command. On Tuesday, Capriles canceled a big protest march he had called for Wednesday after Maduro responded by telling his backers to take to the streets, too.

"Whoever goes out into the street tomorrow is playing the government's

game," Capriles said. "The government wants there to be deaths in the country." Edgard Gutierrez, an independent Venezuelan political consultant, said that given the lack of an insti-



'Chavista' demonstrators, supporters of President-elect Nicolas Maduro, march in front of the National Electoral Council (CNE) in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles has presented a series of allegations of vote fraud and other irregularities to back up his demand for a vote-by-vote recount for the presidential election. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

tutional solution to the dispute, Capriles' supporters "are going to become disenchanted" if he doesn't summon them into the streets to protest.

Capriles has presented a series of allegations of vote fraud and other irregularities that he contends easily add up to more than Maduro's 262,000-vote winning

margin about of 14.9 million votes cast. In addition, the electoral council says about 100,000 votes from abroad had not been counted by Wednesday, and Capriles got about 90

of 283 polling places at which 722,983 votes were cast, and the lack of witnesses raises the possibility of fraud, including double voting.

— Menacing packs of government supporters turned pro-Capriles voters away from the polls.

— There were 3,535 damaged voting machines, representing 189,982 votes.

— Voting rolls included 600,000 dead people.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday reiterated Washington's call for a recount. He declined to say whether the U.S. would refuse to recognize a Maduro presidency without one. Panama and Paraguay are the only other foreign governments to demand a recount.

All day Tuesday, Maduro and his ruling circle filled Venezuela's airways with a steady drumbeat of attacks on Capriles. They called him a coup plotter and accused him of inciting post-election violence by "neo-Nazi gangs" that the government said claimed seven lives and injured 61. □

After 8 long years, Cuba's 'Ladies' to collect EU prize

HAVANA (AP) — Members of Cuba's Ladies in White opposition group will finally pick up Europe's top human rights prize from 2005 in person next week in Belgium, the European Union and the daughter of the group's former leader said Wednesday.

In a statement, the EU said several representatives of the Ladies will be awarded the Sakharov Prize in an April 23 ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels. "It will be an honor to go in representation of the Ladies in White and above all my mother, Laura Pollan," said Laura Labrada. Pollan, the group's co-founder and most prominent leader at the time, died in October

2011.

Labrada said she and Belkis Cantillo would leave Sunday and later meet up with Berta Soler, another co-founder of the Ladies, and Blankita Reyes. The Ladies in White formed in 2003 to demand freedom for their loved ones, 75 government opponents who had been jailed that spring in a crackdown on dissidents.

They became known for their Sunday post-Mass marches down a leafy Havana boulevard, dressed all in white. All 75 prisoners have since been released. The EU honored the Ladies eight years ago for their activism, but they were denied permission to travel to receive the Sakharov.

Cuban authorities did not immediately comment on the news of their upcoming trip. Havana routinely calls dissidents traitorous "mercenaries" who accept foreign money and try to destabilize the country.

This January, President Raul Castro's government ended the much-detested exit visa that had been required of all Cuban travelers for decades.

Since then a number of dissidents have traveled overseas including noted blogger Yoani Sanchez, who has been on a tour of at least a dozen nations since February. However other government opponents with pending legal cases against them have been denied passports. □

The Promenade
Restaurant

SPECIAL

First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce
SEAFOOD COCKTAIL
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce
ESCARGOT A LA CREME
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms
GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE
dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs
PICCATA MILANAISE
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan
CHICKEN FLORENTINE
baked stuffed with creamed spinach
PLAIN OR STUFFED GROUPER
stuffed with seafood thermidor

Fourth Course

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE
PINEAPPLE SOUFFLE
ICE CREAM

\$24
P/PERSON

FOR RESERVATION **583-8899**
L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 near the low rise Hotels

Doctors flee Puerto Rico for US mainland

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Going to the doctor in Puerto Rico has for years often meant getting in line. Now, it might mean getting on a plane.

A medical exodus is taking place in the Caribbean territory as doctors and nurses flee for the U.S. mainland, seeking higher salaries and better reimbursement from insurers. Many of their patients, frustrated by long waits and a scarcity of specialists, are finding they have no choice but to follow them off the island.

Among them is Marilu Flores, a 60-year-old rural mail carrier who is battling advanced rheumatoid arthritis.

She not only is flying to the U.S. mainland to receive treatment; she's moving to Texas.

"The best doctors left a long time ago," she said. In the last five years, the number of doctors in Puerto Rico has dropped by 13 percent, from 11,397 to 9,950, according to the island's Medical Licensing and Studies Board. The biggest losses are primary care physicians and specialists within a specialty, such as thoracic oncologists.

Of the roughly 400 car-

diologists who practiced in Puerto Rico about five years ago, only about 150 remain. The number of anesthesiologists has dropped from roughly 300 to about 100 in roughly the same time period, said Dr.



A doctor walks through a hallway at the Centro Medico trauma center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, April 16, 2013. A medical exodus is taking place in the Caribbean territory as doctors and nurses flee for the U.S. mainland, seeking higher salaries and better reimbursements from insurers.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

Eduardo Ibarra, president of the island's Association of Surgeons. "Same with the neurosurgeons. They don't even number 20 now," Ibarra said. "There are no specialized surgeons in certain areas."

Those seeking a thoracic oncologist, for example, have to go to Florida, if they can afford it.

"It's truly catastrophic," he said.

The exodus of doctors is part of a larger wave of professionals who have left the U.S. island territory in recent years, settling in states such as Florida and New York, where there is a big demand for bilingual work-

ers, especially police and nurses. Many Puerto Ricans also seek to escape a wave of violent crime and higher cost of living. Almost a million more Puerto Ricans now live on the mainland than on the island.

Medical professionals say they expect the situation will worsen.

President Barack Obama's new health care law means U.S. states will soon

seek more doctors amid an influx of patients, said Dr. Guillermo Tirado, an internal medicine specialist in Puerto Rico.

"All states are preparing to cull a lot of doctors from Puerto Rico," he said. "If we have a big exodus now, we're going to see it get worse ... There hasn't been a revolution yet because the escape valve is to buy a plane ticket to Orlando," referring to the many patients who fly to the U.S. for treatment if they can afford it.

Puerto Rico currently does not meet federal recommendations on the number and types of doctors needed per capita, Tirado said.

The island of 3.7 million people has no more than two pediatric neurosurgeons, even though guidelines state there should be at least one pediatric neurosurgeon per roughly 80,000 people, he said.

Puerto Rico also lacks 93 full-time primary care physicians to adequately cover the medical needs of the population, according to statistics from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, which tracks areas suffering from a shortage of health professionals. Of the island's 78 municipalities, 37 need

more health care professionals, including the capital of San Juan and Ponce, the island's second largest city. The island has roughly 7,000 primary care physicians, Ibarra said.

At the same time, the island's medical tourism industry is growing, with two new hospitals being built in Manati and Bayamon, catering mostly to foreigners from elsewhere in the Caribbean, and even some from the U.S. mainland, said Pedro Pierluisi, the island's representative in Congress who has limited voting powers. "In a way, it's inconsistent," he said.

Tirado said U.S. patients seek mostly cosmetic procedures, while Caribbean patients often seek specialists not available on their islands, such as endocrinologists.

"It's a paradox," he said, noting that U.S. tourists who need other medical services while on vacation often choose to go back to the mainland in an air ambulance. To prevent doctors from leaving, one legislator has introduced a bill that would require medical students to stay and practice in Puerto Rico the amount of time it took to complete their residency if the government paid for it.

"We're being left without specialists," said Jose Aponte, former president of the House of Representatives. The government pays for the residencies of at least 95 percent of all Puerto Rican medical students, investing \$35,000-\$45,000 a year for each, Aponte said. Puerto Rico has four medical schools, and roughly 400 medical students graduate a year. If the bill is approved, students would have to reimburse the government the cost of their residency if they leave before practicing medicine for the required time.

"Currently, they are disappearing from the scene because they go to the U.S., where they have received incredible offers," he said. Tirado agreed: "Job offers rain down every day," he said.

Group alleges death after police beating in Haiti

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— An international rights group on Wednesday called for an investigation into the alleged police beating of a Haitian man who was protesting an arson attack in a camp for people displaced by the Caribbean country's massive earthquake in 2010.

Amnesty International said that Civil Merius was detained by police and allegedly beaten after protesting an early-morning arson attack on the settlement where he and thousands of others lived in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Merius allegedly died while in police custody, Amnesty

said.

Another man who lived in the same camp, Darlin Lexima, told Amnesty that he was also beaten and detained by police. He was released without charge Tuesday afternoon.

There was no immediate response from the Haitian police force.

The arson attack began at around 2 am Monday when a group of unidentified individuals on motorcycles tried to set fire to a temporary settlement named Camp Acra. Residents told Amnesty that the camp is home to more than 30,000 people.

The fire was preceded by a warning from an alleged landowner who told people in the camp less

than 24 hours earlier that he would "use all possible means to evict them," Amnesty said.

About seven tents caught fire, but residents managed to extinguish the blaze and no one was injured.

The residents went to a nearby police station to request assistance. But police officers refused to help, citing a lack of resources and then the protest began, Amnesty said.

Amnesty representatives in Haiti spoke to witnesses who confirmed the story. They spoke to Lexima while he was in police custody and noticed that he had bruises on his chest, cheek and left ear. His right arm was swollen.

The delegation is in Haiti to

research camp evictions. The group's findings will be released in a report on Tuesday.

The International Organization of Migration reported this week that 6 percent of the estimated 27,230 Haitians who have left camps this year came as the result of evictions. It didn't give a reason for the evictions, but some landlords and city officials have kicked people off public and private property to reclaim the land.

The report also said that 320,050 people remain in the settlements. This marks a 79 percent drop since the number of people living in the tent camps peaked at 1.5 million. □



Red Sail Sport introduces JETLEV to Aruba!

PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports takes pride in introducing the coolest, most exhilarating water sports ride of your life – the JETLEV! You can literally fly over the ocean, soar up to 30 feet in the air... or hover and walk along the water. JETLEV is unlike any thrill ride you'll ever experience and exclusively available at Red Sail Sports.



ence. After an introduction to the JETLEV equipment, you will receive a thorough briefing by one of our certified instructors. The instructor will explain how to safely operate the equipment and will be able to communicate with you during your flight. After the instruction, you will have approximately 30 minutes of in-pack flying time (most first-time pilots are flying within the first 5 minutes). The flight is

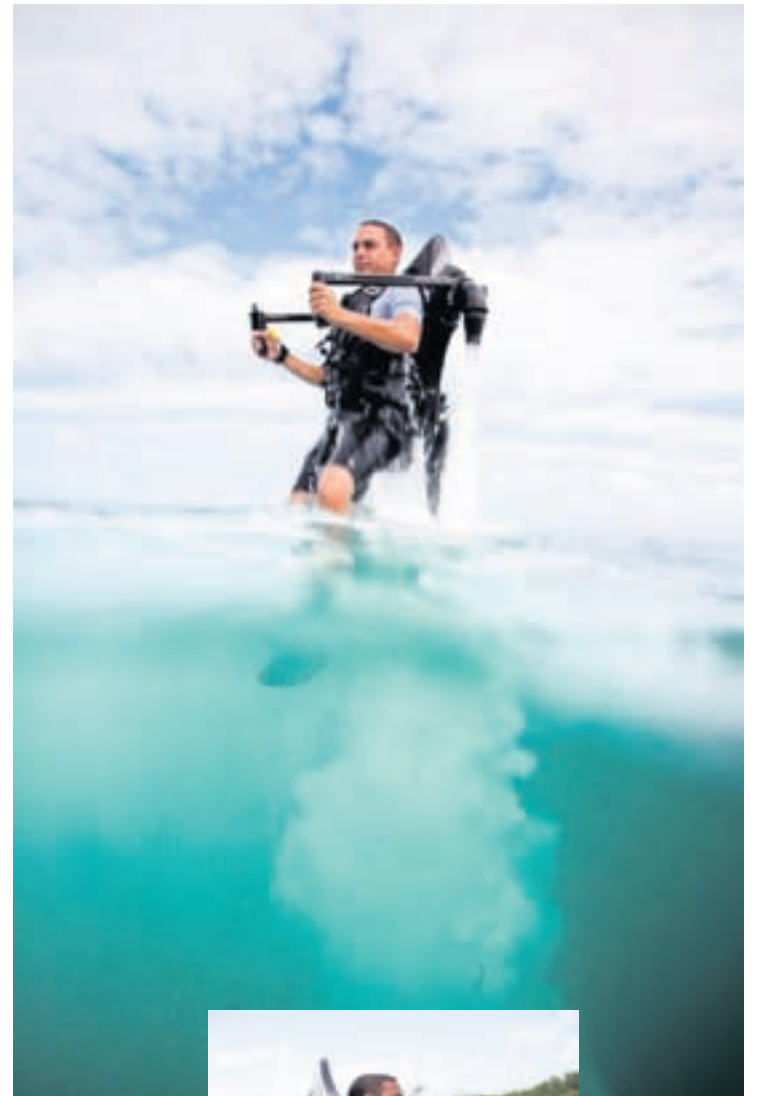
JETLEV is a water-propelled Jetpack. The system is powered by a custom-designed 225 horsepower engine creating 800 -



1,000 gallons-per-minute of thrust, which can propel the pilot to heights of 30 feet. The throttle can also be controlled remotely by the flight-instructor which will guide the rider how

to use the controls during their initial flight to ensure a safe and controlled experience. A flight assistant will accompany each JETLEV pilot to ensure a safe and uninterrupted flight experi-

monitored by the instructor as well as an assistant who will assist while you are in the water. The complete JETLEV experience takes approximately 45 minutes. Participants must be at



least 18 years be a good fly. The activi-able for pregnen. Minimum 4'9" (145 cm), 6'9" (205 cm). More informa-Sail Sports can be found redsailaruba.



of age and swimmer to ty is not suit-nant wom-height is maximum

tion on Red and JETLEV at [www. redsailaruba.com](http://www.redsailaruba.com).



At the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort:

Pure Ocean Delivers Pure Joy

PALM BEACH – Pure Ocean makes its home right on the beach at the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, inviting patrons to unwind in lazy, comfortable chairs on a white sandy beach, as they watch the sun set with their toes in the sand, at the end of a delightful vacation day. Inside the restaurant, sheltered in a giant palapa, the décor is rustic and open-aired and each ta-



ble enjoys the same spectacular true-to-the-restaurant's-name, ocean view.

Opened recently at the same place where the Sunset Bistro once stood,



patrons dine directly on the beach, or under the palapa savoring the chef's fusion-style cooking, featuring fresh seafood, lobster and great steaks, all reasonably priced, and

Aruba-born Executive Chef who trained in excellent European restaurants before returning to his beloved island, is a master of classic cooking techniques, which when paired with fresh produce result in innovative fusion combinations.

He is also a great believer in keeping it simple and tasty, as he serves Caribbean Lobster, broiled with a sweet potato mash, market vegetables, drawn butter and lemon or the French classic with a new twist, Steak Frites, grilled skirt steak, with plantain and chimichurri sauce, or the irresistible Filet Mignon, USDA beef tenderloin, pan seared with a blue cheese BBQ sauce.



beautifully plated.

Executive Chef Anthony de Palm spins his magic in the kitchen presenting a great variety of appetizers such as Coconut Curry Mussels, steamed with fresh cilantro, and light curry coconut milk, or the classic Iceberg Wedge Salad, sprinkled with crisp bacon, diced tomatoes, and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with creamy blue cheese dressing.

For main course the Seared Scallops are very popular served over a cherry tomato, asparagus risotto and the Crispy Coconut Curry Grouper is a true crowd-pleaser, layered over a bed of jasmine rice, with plantain and stir fried vegetables, finished with a mild coconut curry sauce. The restaurant's talented

We tried the divine Osso-Buco, bone-in Veal Shanks and stewed vegetables served over a squash risotto, and the amazing Caribbean Mac & Cheese, with lobster & lump crab, baked with a rich creamy cheddar cheese au gratin, and polished our plates clean! Save room for dessert such as Crème Brûlée, or Warm Molten Chocolate Bread pudding, and if you are conflicted how about the spectacular Dessert Trio of miniaturized crème brûlée, warm chocolate bread pudding, and mango cheese cake. The restaurant serves breakfast every morning from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and Dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Happy Hour is celebrated nightly from 4:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call for reservations, Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, Juan E Iraisquin 75, Palm Beach. □



**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Sharon
Viveiros**

She is from
Boston

Her 7th consecutive
year on Aruba.

**The Blue
Lobster**

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE

Phone: 586-3843

WINNER OF TRIPADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012

Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant

Fast Rental Karts At Bushiri Karting Speedway!

EAGLE - Many have discovered the place for the ultimate thrill on vacation, which is Bushiri Karting Speedway, a great outdoor Go karting Track with fast rental Go karts available for anyone to rent. The place is surrounded with great ambiance and racing fans can challenge each other any day! We

also have a Sports Bar called Fuel Sports Bar & Grill with good food, pool & foosball tables, big screens and a full liquor bar for everyone to chill before, during & after their race! So now you can have fun with the whole family here at Bushiri Karting Speedway! Race, Eat, Play & Watch the Game under one

Roof! Since Bushiri Karting Speedway opened their doors for everyone to enjoy the sport of go karting with 4-stroke go karts to rent all year round and also the facility that anyone can have fun and enjoy with the whole family. A place where children and grownups can enjoy a little speed & fun on vacation! It will definitely make your vacation an unforgettable one! Racing helmets, head socks and instruction for first time racers is provided, and our staff oversees every race to ensure individuals are driving safely and obeying the rules. We have 270cc 9 horse power Honda engine Karts that can reach up to 50mph! Age for riding the adults karts is 13 years & up. We also have 160cc 6 horse power Honda Engine Karts for kids of 7 till 12 years old. Each race is a 10 minute race against the clock. You



can receive a score sheet to take home after every race to see what your best lap time was. The score sheet can give you bragging rights to your friends back home so they can see how well you raced on a professional outdoor karting track in Aruba! We have a Special this week: get \$3 off on your second race & 8 dollars off on your third race plus get a free soda at the Bar! Those who would like to race can call for reserva-

tions at 583-5278 or pass by at the track for an arrive-and-drive session open daily from 10am till sunset. We are located only minutes away from the Low Rise Hotels, in front of Ling & Sons supermarket. More info: www.bushirikarting.com



BONUS



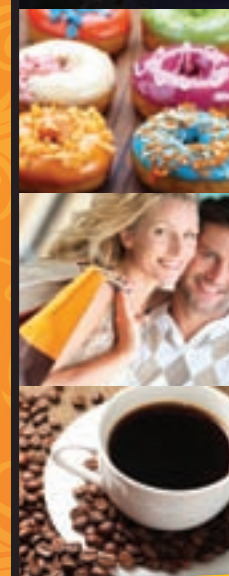
THURSDAY!

Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!

\$6 for 4-Card BINGO! • 8 games to play!

\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!



The Shops at Alhambra Casino

Dining

- Baskin-Robbins
- Dunkin Donuts
- Fusion ~ Piano, Cigar & Wine Bar
- Ginger ~ Asian Flavors
- Juan Valdez Café
- Little Caesars
- Subway

Retail

- Aruba Aloe®
- Aruba Memories
- Daher & Co
- Diamonds International
- Intermezzo ~ The Salon
- R-Glass
- The Lazy Lizard
- The Market

Where Aruba goes to play!

Open daily 10am to 4am • J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 • 583.5000 • www.casinoalhambra.com

Must be an Alhambra Advantage member. All programs and promotions are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice.

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

CATA reps hitch a ride on the Kukoo Kunuku!



PALM BEACH – Participants from Columbia, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Mexico, Suriname, Paraguay, Ecuador and Venezuela have been arriving on Aruba over the last several days to attend the successful 'Convencion Anual de Turism de

Aruba,' known as 'CATA,' a tourism conference dedicated to the Latin American travel market. After their morning session before heading off to lunch, Cata reps climbed aboard the Kukoo Kunuku bus for a little taste of Aruba, Kukoo Kunuku

style! They were welcomed with Mardi Gras beads and maracas to shake on the bus on their way to the California Lighthouse for a champagne toast and a beautiful view of our island Aruba. Kukoo Kunuku is Aruba's #1 bus for fun, offer-

ing several different Nightlife Tours. A perfect way for the old and reckless and the young and the restless to spend an evening in paradise! Visit them online at www.kukookunuku.com or call directly for more information 297-586-2010. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a return to Marinko Matosevic of Australia during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Associated Press

Nadal and Djokovic advance at Monte Carlo

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Eight-time champion Rafael Nadal extended his Monte Carlo Masters winning streak to 43 matches, and top-ranked Novak Djokovic was relieved his right ankle held firm despite hurting it again as both reached the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday.

Nadal beat Marinko Matosevic 6-1, 6-2, but Djokovic spent twice as long on court against Mikhail Youzhny before beating the Russian 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in 2 hours, 15 minutes.

"Today was a big test. My ankle survived, I'm in the next round. That's what matters," Djokovic said. "I know that my game is still not there, obviously, and I have a lot of ups and downs through the match. Physically also, I think I've put double the effort than I do usually because, you know, I still don't feel comfortable."

Continued on page 18

WORK TO DO



Melo will win scoring title, Durant to sit finale

New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) takes a shot against Miami Heat forward Shane Battier during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 2, 2013 in Miami. Anthony tied his career high with 50 points in the Knicks' 102-90 win. Associated Press Page 19

Masters might consider officials with every group

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Rules officials from golf organizations around the world work at the Masters, most of them assigned various parts of the golf course.

But it remains the only major championship that doesn't have a rules official walk with every group. Even more peculiar is that the Masters has the smallest field. With only 93 players this year, there were only 31 groups all four days — threesomes on Thursday and Friday, and twosomes on Saturday and Sunday for the 61 players who made the cut.

Could that change in light of the ruling involving Tiger Woods?

He took an incorrect drop on the 15th hole after hitting into the water in the second round. Fred Ridley, chairman of the competition committee, responded to a TV viewer calling in the violation and did not immediately recognize the mistake based on video evidence.

It was only after Woods said in an interview he dropped it 2 yards farther back did Ridley review the tape again. Woods was given a two-shot penalty, but not disqualified. Ridley invoked Rule 33-7, which gives the committee discretion not to disqualify. In this case, he felt Augusta erred by not presenting the evidence to Woods before he signed his card.

Ridley would not say if the Masters would have officials with each group next year. That likely would be up to Masters chairman Billy Payne.

"If there's one thing about the Masters tournament ... we look at everything," Ridley said.

"What could we do in the future? Is there any different processes we could employ? We look at the entire competition every year and try to get better." Then again, having a walking official doesn't solve every problem. □

Bolt back in London for Diamond League event

LONDON (AP) — Usain Bolt will headline the Diamond League meeting at London's Olympic Stadium in July, returning to the scene of his clean sweep of sprint gold medals at the 2012 Games.

The Jamaican sprinter will compete in the 100 meters and the 4x100 relay at the two-day meeting on July 26-27, which marks the anniversary of the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.

"I'm looking forward to coming back to the U.K., especially with it being a year since winning three

gold medals in the Olympic Stadium," Bolt said.

It will be his final major meeting before the world championship in Moscow starting on Aug. 10.

Besides the Olympics, Bolt hasn't run in London since 2009, partly because of Britain's tax laws, which force foreign competitors to give up a share of their prize money and endorsements. Athletes will be given tax exemptions for the meet.

Bolt is one of 12 gold medalists from the London Games to confirm their attendance, with others including 100 hurdles champion Sally Pearson of



Jamaican Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt runs to win the "Mano a Mano" Men's 150m challenge on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, March 31, 2013.

Associated Press

Australia and 110 hurdles winner Aries Merritt of the United States.

Sanya Richards-Ross (women's 400), Mo Farah (men's 5,000 and 10,000) and Kirani James (men's 400) are

other Olympic champs set to return.

The London meet is the 11th of 14 events in the Diamond League schedule, which begins in Doha on May 10. □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a return to Mikhail Youzhny of Russia during their match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

Associated Press

Djokovic twisted his ankle while playing for Serbia in the Davis Cup on April 7, and was not sure if he would be able to play in Monte Carlo, where he lost in the final last year to Nadal. He looked a bit tentative in the first set but did not appear to be impeded in his movement. He twisted it again during the second set and was hindered for about 15 minutes before the pain wore off.

"You know, protection, the tape, was good. So I managed to overcome that pain and go through the match," said Djokovic, who next faces 14th-seeded Juan Monaco. "I think that my ankle is (getting better) as the days are passing by. Obviously

I will have to play a match every day (during the tournament)."

His relief was evident as he lent backward and lifted both hands in the air after clinching victory on his first match point.

"I'm just happy to compete, to be honest. I didn't know if I'm going to be playing the tournament up to yesterday, basically," Djokovic said. "For me it's important not to have a bigger risk of injuring myself. I enjoy this tournament very much. As I said before, if it was not Monaco I would consider not playing."

Second-seeded Andy Murray also advanced with a 6-1, 6-4 win against France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin. The Briton next

Monte Carlo

Continued from page 17

plays 13th-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka.

Murray leads Wawrinka 8-4 overall but has lost their only two matches on clay — although their previous meeting on the surface was five years ago.

"It will be a tough match, good test for me. He's played some good tennis this year," Murray said. "He obviously enjoys the surface, has had some good results on it in the past."

Earlier, Nadal nearly trailed 3-0 in the second set, but he saved two break points before taking control again. "I played well at the beginning with the right intensity, with no mistakes," said Nadal, who next faces No. 16 Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

At first, Matosevic looked unlikely to even win a game. There were ironic cheers from the crowd when he won his first point and the tall Australian threw both arms up in the air — twice — to milk the applause when he won his first game.

The third-seeded Nadal dropped his serve at the start of the second set and Matosevic held for a surprising 2-0 lead, and he even had a chance to go further ahead, but Nadal

saved the first break point with a forehand winner down the line and Matosevic sent the next opportunity into the net.

"I didn't play my best game the first game of the second, and he played well, so he had the break," Nadal said.

He could even see the funny side of when Matosevic kicked Nadal's water bottles over at the changeover when trailing 5-2. "No, was not a pressure moment. Was a funny one," Nadal said. "Maybe he thought that affects my concentration."

The Spaniard, who played with strapping under his left knee, missed seven months through injury, and since returning in February he has reached four straight finals, winning three.

"Talking more than usual about the knee is not positive for me, is not positive for the opponents, for the tournament, for nobody, no?" Nadal said. "What happened happened." Early on, Djokovic appeared reluctant to commit himself to certain shots and trailed 4-0. Although he drew applause on one shot when he sprinted to retrieve a lob and flicked the ball from the back of the court over the head of Youzhny. □

In his best NBA season, Melo's real work remains

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony believes this has been his finest NBA season. "Yeah, I would say that. I would say that by far," he said. "Just as far as the team success, how I've been playing, how much fun it's been for myself, for everybody."

With more than 50 wins for the New York Knicks and more than 27 points per game for himself, the numbers back him up. The Knicks won a division title, and Anthony will add the scoring title after the regular season ends on Wednesday.

Then the real work will begin.

The Knicks will be expected to win a playoff series, maybe even two. They traded away nearly every important player from a team on the rise to get Anthony from Denver two years ago, and they have one postseason victory to show for it, not what the Knicks or Anthony had in mind.

On Saturday, the Boston Celtics will come to New York, where they finished off a sweep of Anthony and the Knicks in 2011, back when critics who felt the Knicks gave up too much to acquire the All-Star forward needed only point at the players who remained around him to make their case as the season ended with a whimper.

Now Anthony is ready to make some noise.

"It's a big playoff series," he said. "I did envision us being at the top, one or two in the Eastern Conference. I did envision us winning our division eventually, but right now this playoff series is very important for myself, it's very important for us as a team, as a city, as an organization."

Long regarded as one of the league's most dynamic scorers, Anthony has finally become something more, on the court and in the locker room.

"His shotmaking is off the charts, but he's making the right plays, too," Indiana coach Frank Vogel said.

Donnie Walsh always believed Anthony could.

Walsh was the Knicks president in 2011, having gotten them out from under years of bad financial decisions and assembled a playoff contender. Anthony was to become a free agent that summer and told Denver he wanted to leave, and the Knicks would've had room to sign him. But with New Jersey trying hard to get him via a trade, the Knicks didn't want to risk waiting.

The package it took to get him was more than Walsh would've liked — Danilo Gallinari, Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton and Timofey Mozgov were four of their top six players — but a necessary one for an elite player in his prime.

"That was the only reason that we would give up the amount, the kind of players that we did," said Walsh, who has since returned to Indiana as the Pacers' president. "This guy is a guy you're not going to get, or you can't count on getting, so if you had the chance to get him, you had to get him."

But it appeared they got the Anthony who was into scoring but not necessarily

winning. Especially when Amare Stoudemire was hurt, it was clear Anthony didn't trust the teammates around him, and if the choices were to take a contested shot or give it to someone who might miss an open one, Anthony was putting it up. Former coach Mike D'Antoni asked Anthony to alter his game last season when the Knicks were surging behind Jeremy Lin, and Anthony either couldn't or wouldn't.

"If you can score the way he does and you don't have guys on the team that you're sure can make the shot, then you're probably going to shoot it," Walsh said.

That wasn't good enough for Mike Woodson.

He made demands of Anthony that D'Antoni hadn't when he took over as Knicks coach in March 2012. Anthony would be held accountable for everything from his decision-making to the condition of his body, and both have remained solid.

"He met the challenge, and it's been that way all



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony reaches for a pass ahead of Chicago Bulls' Luol Deng during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, April 11, 2013, in Chicago.
Associated Press

season," Woodson said.

New York won 15 of 16 late in the season to take its first Atlantic Division title since 1994. With Anthony playing out of his normal position as a power forward, the Knicks have surrounded him with more shooters and built the league's most dangerous 3-point offense while also assembling a top-10 defense.

The No. 2 seed in the East, the Knicks beat Miami three times and are per-

haps the best hope of giving the Heat a challenge in the playoffs.

"Melo's going to win a championship someday," Denver coach George Karl said this season. "He's going to figure out that scoreboard numbers and stat sheets aren't important. It's the team scoreboard and intangibles of the game that make winners champions."

Maybe Anthony is finally on the way there. □

NBA Capsules

Clippers rout Trail Blazers 93-77



Los Angeles Clippers center Ryan Hollins (15) dunks over Portland Trail Blazers center Meyers Leonard (11) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 16, 2013.
Associated Press

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Caron Butler scored 18 of his 22

points in the third quarter as the Los Angeles Clippers trounced the Portland Trail

Blazers 93-77 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Blake Griffin added 16 points, DeAndre Jordan had 10 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Paul had 11 assists for the Pacific Division champions, who finished their home schedule with a 32-9 record. They end the regular season on Wednesday at Sacramento, and another win would ensure the Clippers have home-court advantage to start the playoffs.

Will Barton scored 17 points and Joel Freeland added 13 points for the Blazers, who never led while losing their 12th in a row.

RAPTORS 113, HAWKS 96

ATLANTA (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Rudy Gay added 22 and

Toronto ran all over playoff-bound Atlanta.

The Raptors made two-thirds of their shots in the first half, sprinting to a 68-51 lead as DeRozan scored 19 points and Gay chipped in with 17. Atlanta went mostly with backups, showing no sense of urgency to claim the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Atlanta fell into a tie with Chicago for the fifth spot. The teams finish the regular season on Wednesday, with the Hawks traveling to New York to face the Knicks, while the Bulls are home against lowly Washington. Chicago holds the tiebreaker.

Kyle Korver led the Hawks with 13 points, extending his 3-point streak to 73 consecutive games. □

NHL Capsules

Flyers solve Lundqvist in 4-2 win over Rangers

**The Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA (AP)**

Brayden Schenn, Erik Gustafsson and Kimmo Timonen scored to give Philadelphia's faint playoff hopes a boost as the Flyers beat the New York Rangers 4-2 on Tuesday night for their second win in two nights.

Mats Zuccarello and Derek Stepan scored for the Rangers, who have a tenuous hold on the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Rangers are tied with Winnipeg, five points ahead of the 11th-place Flyers.

Jakub Voracek added an empty-net goal in the final seconds to seal the victory for Philadelphia. Steve Mason got the spot start over Ilya Bryzgalov and made 38 saves.

New York's Henrik Lundqvist was solid with 18 saves, but two goals off the



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), from Russia, celebrates his goal as Toronto Maple Leafs center Jay McClement (11) skates behind in the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in Washington.

Associated Press

post doomed the Rangers. ISLANDERS 5, PANTHERS 2 UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Michael Grabner scored twice and Evgeni Nabokov made 26 saves as the New York Islanders moved closer to a playoff berth with a victory over Florida.

The Islanders earned their ninth win in 12 games while playing their final regular-season home game. The Islanders, 10-11-3 at home

after starting 2-8-1, will begin a season-ending, five-game trip on Thursday in Toronto.

With a 14-5-3 mark since March 1, the Islanders hold seventh place in the Eastern Conference. New York, seeing its first postseason appearance since 2007, has allowed two goals or fewer in nine straight games. Matt Moulson, Mark Streit and Radek Martinek also scored for the Islanders. Dmitry Kulikov and Marcel Goc had goals for the Panthers (13-23-6), who own the NHL's worst record.

CAPITALS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 1 WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his NHL-leading 28th goal, and Washington enjoyed a rare feeling of dominance outside its division, winning its eighth straight by topping Toronto. Jack Hillen, Martin Erat, Troy Brouwer and Mar-

cus Johansson also scored, and Braden Holtby made 29 saves for the Southeast Division-leading Capitals.

The Capitals have moved into playoff position by feasting on the weak Southeast, going 14-3 within the division, but they entered Tuesday's game just 9-14-2 against the rest of the Eastern Conference. All but two of those nine wins were by one goal.

The Maple Leafs had won four of five. Toronto was down 4-0 before Mikhail Grabovski scored in the third period.

Ovechkin has 19 goals in 18 games.

JETS 4, LIGHTNING 3, SO WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Andrew Ladd scored twice in regulation and added the decisive goal in a shootout as Winnipeg stayed in the thick of the playoff hunt with a victory over Tampa Bay. □



Boston Red Sox's Mike Napoli hits a bases-loaded double off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez to drive in three runs in the second inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 16, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Napoli hit a three-run double in Boston's seven-run second inning as the Red Sox, playing with heavy hearts one day after the deadly bombings back home, beat the Cleveland Indians 7-2 on Tuesday night.

Boston's players were already en route to Cleveland when they learned of the explosions near the Boston Marathon's finish line that killed three and injured more than 170. The Red Sox were hoping to bring some relief to those affected by the tragedy,

and they may have while winning their fourth straight. The series opener was also Indians manager Terry Francona's first game against the Red Sox, the team he led to two World Series titles during eight seasons in Boston.

Helped by five walks, the Red Sox scored seven runs in the second off Ubaldo Jimenez (0-2) and gave Felix Doubront (1-0) all the support he needed.

Monday's tragic events in Boston brought a somber tone to Francona's reunion as well as to the Red Sox. Before the game, in a clubhouse devoid of its usual

AL Capsules

Somber Red Sox regroup, beat Indians 7-2

pregame sound and bustle, several players spoke of how a memorable Patriots Day win over Tampa Bay turned horrific.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — Matt Wieters homered, Nate McLouth scored twice, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the struggling Tampa Bay Rays despite allowing three home runs.

The Orioles let a four-run cushion dwindle to 5-4 in the eighth, but held on for their fifth straight home win over the Rays, dating to last year.

Desmond Jennings homered on the game's first pitch for Tampa Bay, and Kelly Johnson and Evan Longoria connected off Pedro Strop in the eighth. But the Rays could muster only six hits against Jake Arrieta (1-2) and five relievers.

Roberto Hernandez (0-3) took the loss for last-place Tampa Bay, which has lost four straight and seven of

eight. With a 4-9 record, Tampa Bay has matched the worst start in franchise history (2001 and 2005).

WHITE SOX 4, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Dayan Viciedo doubled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning and the Chicago White Sox rallied to beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Paul Konerko hit a game-tying homer and scored three runs as the White Sox won for just the second time in eight games. Matt Lindstrom (1-0) got one out for the win and Addison Reed finished for his fifth save in as many opportunities. Colby Rasmus and J.P. Arencibia hit solo home runs for the Blue Jays, who couldn't hold on after taking a 2-1 lead in the sixth. Steve Delabar (1-1) allowed two runs and one hit in 1 1-3 innings.

TWINS 8, ANGELS 6

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Joe Mauer had another four hits and three RBIs to lead the Minnesota Twins past

the Los Angeles Angels.

Mauer sprayed four singles into the Target Field outfield, making him 8 for 10 in the series through two games and raising his average to .386. Brian Dozier added two hits and two RBIs in his first career game batting leadoff for the Twins. Mike Pelfrey (2-1) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings for the Twins. Jason Vargas (0-2) gave up five runs and nine hits with two walks in just 3 1/3 innings for the Angels.

ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 3

OAKLAND, California

(AP) — Josh Donaldson's eighth-inning triple drove in Josh Reddick for the winning run and Oakland Athletics overcame starter A.J. Griffin's early struggles for a victory over the Houston Astros.

Reddick drew a two-out walk off reliever Rhiner Cruz (0-1) and took off for second just before Donaldson's hit down the right-field line landed just fair. □



THE PELICAN NEST

Bar & Seafood Grill

"For the ultimate... Sunset Dinner experience"...

Present this ad & enjoy a FREE CEVICHE per coupe with your 3 course meal.

The best of Palm Beach, located on the Caribbean Ocean amid turquoise waters and fresh sunny breezes. The menu offers an impressive selection of fresh Seafood, International dishes, a relaxing atmosphere, exclusive seating for dinner and the option while to feed the fish.

Located between Holiday Inn and Playa Linda Resort • www.pelican-aruba.com



For reservation call:
5862259

NL Capsules

Braves win 10th straight behind 3HRs in 8th

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Jason Heyward, Justin Upton and Dan Uggla homered in the eighth inning, and Juan Francisco hit a pair of solo shots earlier in the game to help the Atlanta Braves win their 10th straight with a 6-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals in an interleague matchup Tuesday night.

Atlanta's 10-game winning streak is its longest since the club won 15 in a row from April 15 to May 2, 2000. The Braves are 12-1 and off to their best start since they began the 1994 season 13-1.

Eric O'Flaherty (3-0) struck out two in a scoreless eighth.

Heyward's second homer, Upton's eighth and Uggla's third were solo shots off Kelvin Herrera (1-1). The Braves have outhomered opponents 25-7 and outscored them 68-25 for the best run differential in the majors.

Heyward hit the go-ahead shot before Upton and Uggla followed to make it 5-2.

Craig Kimbrel finished off the Royals in a non-save situation after an injury to Luis Avilan.

RANGERS 4, CUBS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Derek Holland pitched seven shutout innings, Adrian Beltre hit a two-run homer and Craig Gentry made a diving catch for the final out to preserve Texas' interleague victory over Chicago on a 39-degree night at Wrigley Field.

Holland (1-1) at one point retired nine straight against the Cubs, who have lost three games in a row. The left-hander struck out six and allowed two hits.

Beltre's home run off reliever Shawn Camp gave the Rangers a 4-0 lead in the eighth. Chicago starter Travis Wood (1-1) gave up two runs and five hits in 7 1-3 innings.

The Cubs scored twice with two outs in the ninth, but Gentry made a diving grab on Darwin Barney's bases-loaded liner to give Joe Nathan his fifth save in five tries.

MARLINS 8, NATIONALS 2

MIAMI (AP) — Adeiny Hechavarria

ended Miami's nine-game home run drought with a three-run shot against Washington.

A throwing error by Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman — his fourth in five games — preceded the homer and led to four unearned runs.

The Marlins (3-11) began the game with the worst record in the majors but broke out of an offensive slump in the fourth inning with four runs, more than they had scored in all but one game.

Hechavarria sent the Marlins Park home run sculpture swinging into action for the first time this season and ended a homer drought that had tied the 20-year-old franchise record.

Justin Ruggiano had two hits and three RBIs, and Juan Pierre finished with three hits. Alex Sanabia (2-1) allowed two runs in six innings, and two relievers completed an eight-hitter.

Dan Haren (1-2) gave up seven runs, three earned, in 4 1-3 innings and lowered his ERA to 8.10.

The Nationals played without three regulars. Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton sat out for the fifth consecutive game because of a bruised left shoulder.

ROCKIES 8, METS 4, 1ST GAME

DENVER (AP) — Carlos Gonzalez homered and tripled, Todd Helton hit a go-ahead single and Colorado beat New York in the opening game of a doubleheader that was delayed 2 hours as 8 inches of snow was cleared off the field.

One day after a spring storm postponed the first game of the series, the teams were scheduled to play two in frigid conditions. The temperature at first pitch was 39 degrees and dipped to 36 for the nightcap.

David Wright homered twice for the Mets, finally back on the field after cold weather postponed two straight games. Wintry conditions in Minneapolis on Sunday prompted their game against the Twins to be rescheduled in August.

Juan Nicasio (2-0) allowed four runs in five innings. Dillon Gee (0-3)



Atlanta Braves pitcher Kris Medlen delivers in the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals, Tuesday, April 16, 2013, in Atlanta.

Associated Press.

had another rough outing for the Mets, going 4 2-3 innings and giving up five earned runs.

Early in the morning, Rockies owner Dick Monfort took the field with a shovel and helped clear the way for the game to be played. A crew of team employees lent a hand as well, as did Sandy Alderson, the

general manager of the Mets.

In other NL games it was Colorado 8, N.Y. Mets 4, 1st game; Atlanta 6, Kansas City 3; Miami 8, Washington 2; Texas 4, Chicago Cubs 2; Milwaukee 10, San Francisco 8; Colorado 9, N.Y. Mets 8, 10 innings, 2nd game; and San Diego 9, L.A. Dodgers 2. □

Panel backs inhaler drug for lung disease

WASHINGTON (AP) — A panel of U.S. respiratory experts voted Wednesday in favor of approving an experimental inhaler drug from GlaxoSmithKline and Theravance for treating chronic lung disease.

A majority of Food and Drug Administration panelists voted that the Breo Ellipta inhaler is safe and effective for long-term use and to control flare ups in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder or COPD.

The FDA is not required to follow the group's recommendation, though it often does. The agency is expected to make a decision by May 12.

The lung ailment, often called smoker's cough, can cause a number of breathing problems, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Breo is a combination of two respiratory drugs that can help open lung air passages and reduce swelling. The drug is designed to be

used with the Ellipta inhaler device.

The British drugmaker said in a statement following the meeting: "This positive recommendation is a crucial first step toward making Breo Ellipta available for appropriate COPD patients across the U.S."

The drug is also under regu-

vair, its best-selling product with more than \$4 billion in sales per year. Breo Ellipta is one of several experimental respiratory drugs on which the U.K. drugmaker and Theravance are collaborating.

Trading of Theravance Inc. was halted Wednesday morning, ahead of the FDA



A panel of experts voted Wednesday in favor of approving an experimental inhaler drug for treating chronic lung disease. (Handout Photo)

latory review in the European Union.

Glaxo, a leader in respiratory medicine, already sells the asthma treatment Ad-

meeting. GlaxoSmithKline PLC's U.S.-listed shares rose 95 cents to close at \$50.33 in trading. The broader markets ended lower. □

FDA: Agency was lax on compounding

SABRINA TAVERNISE

© 2013 New York Times N

Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, the Food and Drug Administration commissioner, told Congress on this week that her agency should have acted more aggressively against compounding pharmacies of the kind that was responsible for a deadly meningitis outbreak last fall.

In a hearing before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, she said the agency had become overly concerned about avoiding lawsuits, and as a result did not police the industry as effectively as it could have.

"I think we allowed ourselves to be far too cautious because of fears of litigation that might further undermine our authority," she said. "That should not happen."

She added: "We weren't as aggressive as we could have been, and I regret that."

But Hamburg also reiterat-

ed concerns that the agency still lacked the authority to get such pharmacies to adhere to tougher safety standards. Their regulation largely falls to the states, and the FDA has repeatedly said it needs stronger legal tools to go after them, a position that Republicans on the subcommittee strongly oppose.

"I'm deeply concerned that we don't have the authority we need," she said. "I am here now to ask for your help. We have had an urgent call to action."

More than 50 people died from fungal meningitis and 680 more were sickened after being injected last year with a contaminated steroid made by the New England Compounding Center, based in Massachusetts.

Compounding pharmacies originally made specialized formulations of drugs for patients with particular needs, like a liquid form of a medicine for someone who cannot swallow a pill.

But in recent years, the number of compounders has multiplied, and some have become essentially mass manufacturers, distributing huge quantities of medicines all over the country. Hamburg estimated that there are about 28,000 compounders in the country, but that only about 3,000 do the highest-risk work of making sterile solutions for injection.

This was the second time since last fall that Hamburg testified before the committee, and Republicans again expressed skepticism that the FDA needed more power. They pointed out that the agency had conducted a flurry of inspections over the past few months, the results of which were publicized last week. Hamburg said the FDA needed the power to require that compounders making high-risk products register with the agency and to compel them to submit to inspections and show their records. □

Report on US meat sounds alarm on resistant bacteria

STEPHANIE STROM

© 2013 New York Times

More than half of samples of ground turkey, pork chops and ground beef collected from supermarkets for testing by the federal government contained bacteria resistant to antibiotics, according to a new report highlighting the findings.

The data, collected in 2011 by the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System — a joint program of the Food and Drug Administration, the Agriculture Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — show a sizable increase in the amount of meat contaminated with antibiotic-resistant forms of bacteria, known as superbugs, like salmonella, E. coli and campylobacter.

The government published the findings in February, but they received scant attention until the Environmental Work Group issued its report, "Superbugs Invade American Supermarkets," which was partly underwritten by Applegate, which sells organic and antibiotic-free "natural" meats.

"The numbers are pretty striking," said Dawn Undurraga, the nutritionist for the group, a health research and advocacy organization.

"It really raises a question about the antibiotics we are using in raising animals for meat."

Academic veterinarians who work with the International Food Information Council, financed in part by major food companies, and with the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance, which receives some financing from veterinary pharmaceutical companies, criticized the report as misleading.

"The No. 1 misunderstanding about antibiotics in animal agriculture is that it is not understood well enough that antibiotics are used to keep animals healthy, period," said Randall Singer, a professor of veterinary science at the University of Minnesota. Singer noted the limited

number of samples in the federal data, 480 samples each of ground turkey, pork chops and ground beef, and chicken breasts, wings and thighs, compared with the huge amount of meat sold in the United States.

"We should not assume that when we find resistance to antibiotics in humans, it means it was caused by the use of antibiotics in animals," he said.

Many animals grown for meat are fed diets containing antibiotics to promote growth and reduce costs, as well as to prevent and control illness.

Public health officials in the United States and in Europe, however, are warning that the consumption of meat containing antibiotics contributes to resistance in humans.

A growing public awareness of the problem has led to increased sales of antibiotic-free meat.

The Agriculture Department has confirmed that almost 80 percent of all antibiotics sold in the United States are used in animal agriculture, and public health authorities around the world increasingly are warning that antibiotic resistance is reaching alarming levels.

"We don't have a problem with treating animals with antibiotics when they are sick," Undurraga said. "But just feeding them antibiotics to make them get bigger faster at a lower cost poses a real problem for public health."

The FDA has recommended that the use of antibiotics in farm animals be "limited to those uses that are considered necessary for assuring animal health," but its guidance is only voluntary.

Supermarkets increasingly are labeling meat that does not contain antibiotics, just one sign of the growing consumer awareness of the issue.

The federal researchers tested for the enterococcus bacteria, which is an indication of fecal contamination. □

Taiwan tech industry faces up to Samsung

ANNIE HUANG

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwanese companies have long viewed tech giant Samsung as a major threat and the battle has recently appeared to tilt in favor of the South Korean rival as Taiwan's smartphone, memory chip and display panel makers suffered sagging exports.

The sales erosion has been driven by competition, some of it from South Korea, and a weak global economy but has also spawned fears on this export-reliant island of 23 million that Samsung has deliberately targeted Taiwanese firms as part of a campaign to undermine their competitiveness in markets around the world. Business Today, Taiwan's top business magazine, gave voice to those fears last month with an extensive cover story accusing Samsung Electronics of launching a "Kill Taiwan" effort and targeting some of the island's leading high-tech companies including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract chip maker.

Adding fuel to the fire, Taiwan's Fair Trade Commission recently launched an investigation into allegations that Samsung planted unflattering comments about Taiwanese consumer electronics on the Internet as a way of undermining their appeal to customers.

While Taiwanese companies are facing a challenge from Samsung, industry



In this April 10, 2013 photo, a saleswoman displays new Samsung smartphones at a retail shop in Taipei, Taiwan. Associated Press

analysts such as John Brebeck, a Taipei-based adviser with technology development firm Quantum International Corp., says perceptions here that the South Korean company is setting out to crush Taiwan's lucrative technology industry miss the point. Samsung is trying to make inroads in specific areas where it sees a big profit potential and these areas are also where Taiwanese companies have a major stake, he said. "It's not Taiwan as much as it's industry sectors that's motivating Samsung."

Samsung Electronics spokeswoman Jee Hae-Ryoung said business strategies like "Kill Taiwan" do not exist at Samsung.

That's all little comfort for Taiwan's technology industry, which knows it must remain nimble and

innovative to avoid the downward spiral of famous Japanese companies such as Sony Corp. which were outrun by competitors including Samsung. Taiwan's high tech exports totaled \$98 billion last year, accounting for about 20 percent of the island's GDP. Fearing they will lose more ground, a number of Taiwanese manufacturers are carving out alliances with high-tech companies in Japan and the United States that are also facing off against Samsung, in an effort to safeguard market share and give a boost to Taiwan's economy. A noted and longtime Taiwanese collaborator is Apple Inc., which was replaced last year by Samsung as the top smartphone maker in the world.

For its part, the Taiwan government is pressing the island's tech companies to work more closely with local component suppliers in an effort to achieve the kind of business integration that has helped to make Samsung such a formidable rival.

"We hope the tech companies can work together with their suppliers during the early product developing process, rather than wait till the new components are developed," said Stephen Su, a marketing analyst with Taiwan's Industrial Technology Re-

search Institute, a state-funded institute that develops cutting-edge technologies and transfers them to the private sector.

Su said a major pilot project in the integration effort involves smartphone maker HTC Corp., which is trying to use processors made by local chip designers in its new handsets.

Until last year, HTC was a top global smartphone maker, cashing in on its status as the first company to make handsets using Google's Android operation system. Now, however, it is struggling as Samsung and Apple smartphones dominate.

Aside from smartphones, another emerging battlefield in the Taiwan-Samsung rivalry is the semiconductor industry, long a Taiwanese stronghold.

With its seemingly unlimited supply of capital, Samsung has deftly moved from making memory chips that store data to more profitable logic chips that run as the brain of computers.

It is also ramping up its expansion into the foundry business that fabricates chips, posing a direct challenge to TSMC, which provides application chips to companies such as Apple and Qualcomm Inc.

TSMC founder Morris Chang has called Samsung a "formidable rival" but says his company is

well prepared to meet the challenge.

In the past year, TSMC has significantly increased its capital spending to move more aggressively into the cutting-edge technologies of 20 and 16 nanometers that can make smaller chips which run faster at lower power.

The new technologies will enable TSMC to make the application processors that will run new iPhones and iPads. Apple currently gets such chips from its smartphone and tablet rival Samsung. But analysts say that Apple's transition will be complicated, because Samsung is involved in part of the processors' design, in addition to fabricating the wafers that foundries normally handle.

"Apple has been waiting until TSMC is ready and able to catch up," said Brebeck. "They are willing to wait because they want to get away from Samsung. TSMC understands it and is clearly moving rapidly in this direction."

Apart from the new processors, TSMC has — as of now — a clear edge in its foundry business with a well-established customer base.

Nicholas Chen, an attorney who advises many Taiwanese tech firms, said global companies such as Apple may not trust Samsung as a chip supplier for fear the Korean giant could steal their designs when making its own products.

TSMC's advantage, he said, is that it is a pure foundry that does not make chips under its own brand and is known to be "proactively disciplined on protecting trade secrets."

"If somebody is committed to this in this industry, they are clearly the example," Chen said.

Aside from TSMC, another Taiwanese tech company under serious threat from Samsung is Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., also known as Foxconn, which makes gadgets for global clients, including Apple iPhones and iPads, at its massive plants on mainland China. □

Google mail and other services 'disrupted'

NEW YORK (AP) — Google's mail and application services are unavailable to some users. The company says it's investigating the problems, but doesn't know their cause.

Google's apps status dashboard shows that its Mail, Drive file storage service and office-application services are "disrupted."

Its administrator control panel, which lets companies manage their Google applications, is completely down.

The disruptions started affecting people worldwide around 8 a.m. Eastern time (noon GMT).

Google Inc. says it's "working hard to restore normal operation." □

Stocks fall on signs of slowing economy

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As evidence of a slowing global economy grows, investors are showing some caution just one week after U.S. stocks hit an all-time high. Stocks fell after lackluster earnings from Bank of America and an apparent drop in demand for Apple's iPod and iPhone dragged financial and technology stocks lower. New signs of weakness in Europe, where car sales are plunging and unemployment is rising, also weighed on the market. On Monday, stocks sank after China reported economic growth that was slower than economists had expected. Metals, energy and other commodities have been hit hard this week and that has dragged down the stocks of miners and drillers and companies that provide services to them. Gold fell the most in 30 years. The Dow Jones Industrial average fell 138 points, or 0.9 percent, to 14,618.59 Wednesday, wiping out most of the gain it made Tuesday.

The Dow, which reached an all-time high of 14,865 last Thursday, is down 1.7 percent this week after slumping 265 points on Monday.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 22 points, or 1.4 percent, to 1,553 and is 2.2 percent lower since the opening bell on Monday. The S&P is 2.5 percent below its all-time high of 1,593.

Energy companies and miners fell as commodity prices extended their declines.

The price of crude oil dropped for the fourth day in five, falling 2.3 percent to \$86.68 per barrel, based on expectations that global demand will fall. Copper fell to an 18-month low of \$3.19 a pound.

As stock prices sank, investors sought the safety of bonds. The yield on the 10-

week, the Dow is still 11.6 percent higher this year, the S&P 500 index 8.8 percent. And while falling energy prices may hurt energy stocks now, in the long run they should put more money into the pockets of consumers and drive spending.

Stocks surged during the first three months of the year on optimism that a recovery in the housing market would boost the econ-

omic data points that have been, not really disastrous, but not really as robust as people might like," said Cam Albright, director of asset allocation at Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors. "When you have a market as extended as this, you almost need perfect information to make it continue to go up." Reports this week have added to a picture of slowing global growth.



People pass a Bank of America branch in New York. Bank of America Corp. reported lackluster quarterly financial results before the market opened on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

year Treasury note, which moves inversely to its price, fell to 1.70 percent from 1.73 percent. It went as low as 1.68 percent, matching its lowest level of the year. Despite the big drops this

omy. But the stock market has struggled this month. Reports of weak hiring and retail sales suggested the economy may be cooling off.

"You've had numerous

New car sales in Europe fell 10 percent in the first quarter, the European automakers association said Wednesday, as high unemployment saps demand for big purchases. □

Tata Consultancy's quarterly profit up 13%

KAY JOHNSON
Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — India's top outsourcing company Tata Consultancy Services said Wednesday that its quarterly profit rose 13 percent to \$663 million as business from Europe emerged from a downturn. TCS added 52 new clients in the quarter, and CEO Natarajan Chandrasekaran predicted stronger growth in fiscal 2014, which began in April.

"We are seeing more in

the number of large deals today than we were last year,"

Chandrasekaran told reporters in a briefing. Revenue for the quarter was up 14.8 percent from a year earlier to \$3 billion. Profit for the fiscal year ended March rose 15.6 percent to \$2.6 billion.

TCS suffered a drop in business from Europe in the October-December quarter, but Chandrasekaran said the situation there was now improving. The company

was especially optimistic about getting more clients in Germany, he said.

The quarterly and annual profits were in line with the average forecasts of analysts polled by FactSet. The company's stock was down 1.7 percent to 1,459 rupees (\$26.91) in Wednesday trading ahead of the results, which were released after markets closed.

Quarterly reports of India's leading IT and outsourcing companies are being closely watched this earn-

ings season to gauge the health of one of India's top industries, which has been suffering as overseas customers worried about costs during the global economic downturn limited their orders.

TCS rival Infosys reported lower quarterly profit and forecast subdued revenue growth last week, sending its shares down 21 percent. Another major IT outsourcer, Wipro Ltd., is due to announce its earnings on Friday. □

Apple falls to one-year low on suppliers

PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of Apple Inc. fell below \$400 for the first time in a year and half on Wednesday, after a supplier hinted at a slowdown in iPhone and iPad production. The stock was down \$21.89, or 5.1 percent, at \$404.35 in early afternoon trading. Earlier in the day, it hit \$398.11, the lowest level since Dec. 2011.

The decline means Apple has — for now — lost its position as the world's most valuable publicly traded company to Exxon Mobil Corp., which has a market capitalization a few billion dollars above Apple's \$380 billion price tag.

Late Tuesday, Cirrus Logic Inc., which supplies audio chips for the iPhone and iPad, said sales of a particular chip are slowing down as an unnamed customer moves to a newer component.

Analyst Peter Misek at Jefferies & Co. said Cirrus' news suggests a big decline in Apple sales in the April to June period. That supports his view that Apple is unlikely to launch a new iPad Mini in the quarter, and that the next version of the full-size iPad may launch late in the quarter rather than early. In the last three years, Apple has launched a new iPad in March or April.

Apple does not comment on its suppliers' announcements or its product plans. It's set to report results for the January to March quarter on Tuesday.

The latest decline in the stock comes after a bruising winter for Apple. The company's stock is down 42 percent from its all-time high of \$705.07, hit on Sept. 21 when the iPhone 5 went on sale. Investors have concluded that with the demise of co-founder Steve Jobs, Apple may never again create another ground-breaking product of the magnitude of the iPhone or iPad. □

Tesco prepares U.S. exit with sale of Fresh & Easy

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tesco, Britain's largest retailer by sales, is to pull out of the U.S., selling off its loss-making Fresh & Easy supermarket chain after it failed to transfer its winning formula from the U.K. to the western states. The supermarket group booked a loss of 1.2 billion pounds (\$1.8 billion) for the U.S. misadventure, which helped send net profit for the year down 96 percent to 120 million pounds (\$183 million). Fresh & Easy — which employs about 5,000 people and has about 200 stores in Arizona, California and Nevada — flopped mainly because Tesco opened the chain just before the start of the economic crisis and misjudged the shopping habits of its target customers. "It's never easy to walk away from something,"

Tesco's chief executive, Philip Clarke, told the BBC. "The world is so different now from 2004 and 2005 when the research was originally taken. Who was shopping on a smartphone back then?"

Clarke hopes to sell the stores as a single unit in the hope of securing jobs. He said there was already interest expressed in the chain, but he did not name a buyer — or price.

Fresh & Easy opened in 2007, just before the subprime mortgage crisis hit many parts of the chain's target market and dashed hopes for explosive growth. While Tesco PLC has done well with its range of compact Metro stores in the U.K. — built close to public transport links so shoppers can grab a few items of food on their way home from work — the idea did not translate well to the



Tesco PLC, Britain's largest supermarket operator, announced Wednesday April 17, 2013, that it will close its six-year-old U.S. operation after losses at the U.S. Fresh & Easy chain undercut stronger earnings in the U.K. after net profit for the year dropped 96 percent.

(AP Photo/Alastair Grant)

U.S. Though some shoppers liked the concept of meals that were ready to eat with minimal preparation, there simply weren't enough buyers.

In the American west, most shoppers drive to supermarkets — sometimes just

once a week — and will look for a broader range of products, said Marc Levinson, author of "The Great A&P and the Struggle for Small Business in America." Levinson added that Fresh & Easy wasn't unique as a store, and Tesco didn't

have time to experiment and work through glitches because of shareholder pressure. The company also underestimated the amount of attention needed to deal with the quickly changing American market, he said. □

American Express' 1Q profit up as spending rises

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

American Express said Wednesday that its net income edged up 2 percent in the first quarter, as increased spending by cardholders helped boost revenue for the credit card issuer. While the latest earnings came ahead of Wall Street expectations, revenue fell short. Management also announced plans to

raise its dividend in the next quarter by 15 percent to 23 cents. And said it will move to return up to \$3.2 billion to shareholders through share buybacks this year. It plans up to an additional \$1 billion in buybacks in the first quarter of next year.

The New York-based company said cardholder spending rose 6 percent during the quarter, or 7 percent, excluding the im-

pact of foreign currency exchange. Annual cardholder membership fees also increased from a year earlier. "We are off to a strong start in 2013, thanks to our ability to grow revenue in a slow growth economy, control expenses and maintain a strong balance sheet," CEO Kenneth I. Chenault said in a statement. American Express cardholders tend to be

more affluent than other credit card users, which was one reason the company has done well during the economy's slow rise out of the last recession. Even so, credit card spending traditionally slows in the first three months of the year, as consumers focus on paying down cards after going on a spending spree during the holiday season.

Sales at U.S. retailers declined a seasonally adjusted 0.4 percent in March. That followed a 1 percent gain in February and a 0.1 percent decline in January.

Some of that decline may have been due to an increase in Social Security payroll taxes that went into effect in January and has cut into many Americans' paychecks. □

EBay grows 1Q earnings but outlook falls short

NEW YORK (AP) — EBay grew its earnings and revenue in the first quarter thanks to growth in its PayPal business and its e-commerce sites. But revenue fell shy of Wall Street's expectations and the company's outlook for the current quarter is weaker than expected, causing investors to send the company's stock lower in after-hours trading. The company recently issued an upbeat long-term forecast, but some analysts are worried about short-term challeng-



EBay Inc. said Wednesday that it earned \$677 million, or 51 cents per share, in the January-March period.

(Handout Photo)

es EBay faces. Benchmark analyst Daniel Kurnos believes EBay is confronted with tight retail inventories and potential pressure from credit card companies on PayPal's profit margins if they start charging fees for the payments service.

EBay Inc. said Wednesday that it earned \$677 million, or 51 cents per share, in the January-March period. That's up 19 percent from \$570 million, or 44 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

Adjusted earnings were 63

cents per share, up from last year's 55 cents and a penny above analysts' expectations of 62 cents.

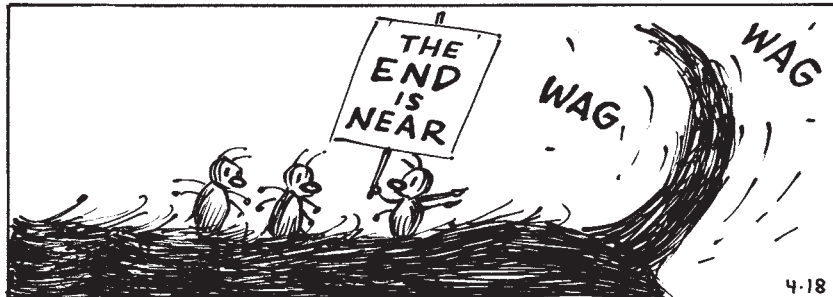
Revenue grew 14 percent to \$3.75 billion, slightly below Wall Street's expectations. Analysts polled by FactSet were anticipating \$3.77 billion.

For the current quarter, eBay expects earnings of 46 cents to 48 cents per share and adjusted earnings of 61 cents to 63 cents per share. Analysts are predicting higher earnings of 66 cents per share. □

Mutts

Flea comix

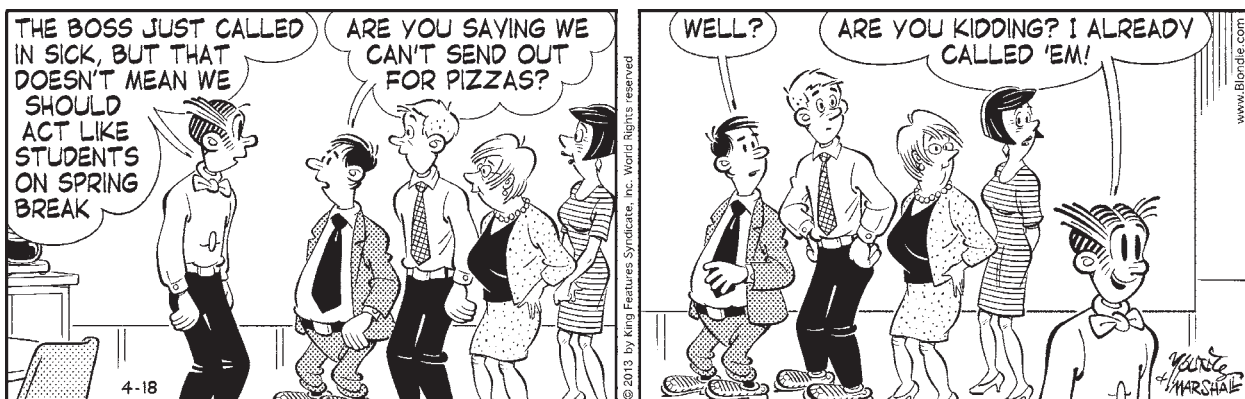
by Mooch



6 Chix



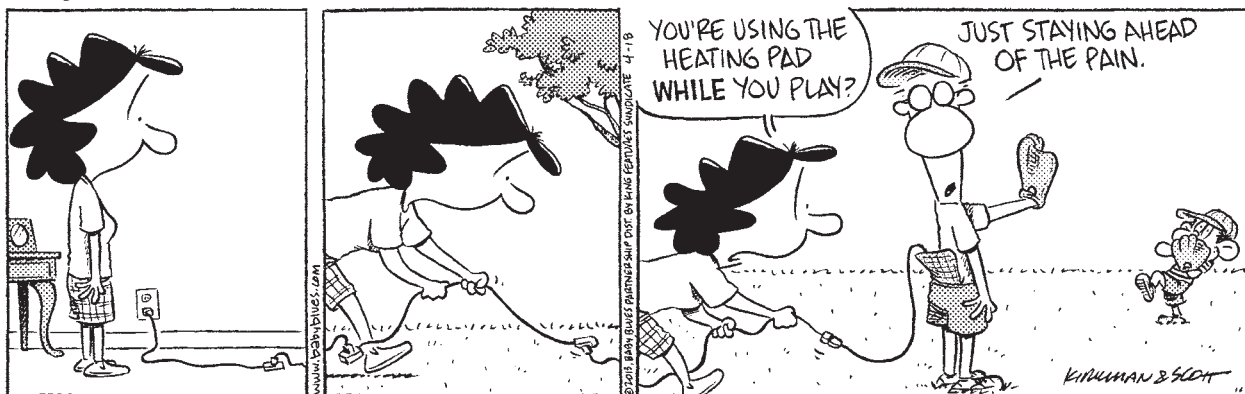
Blondie



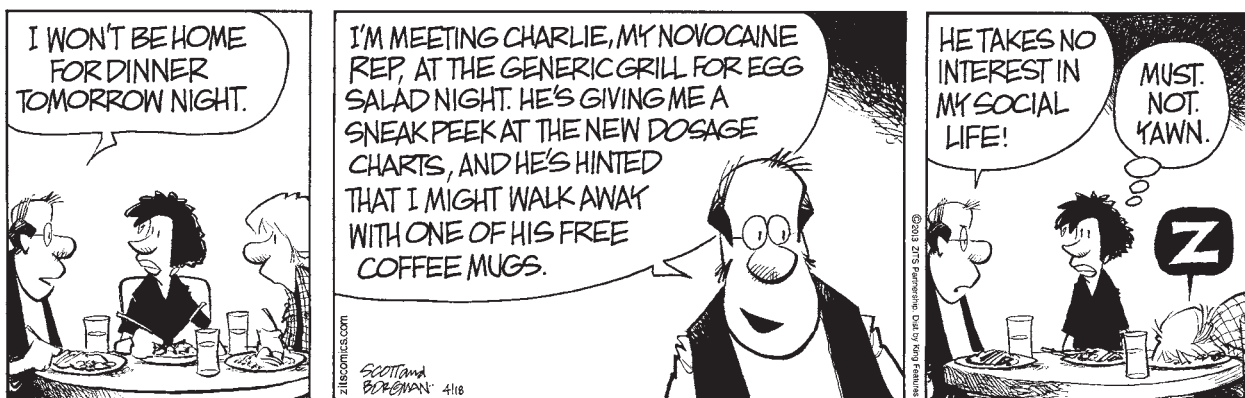
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3	6					
	9			4				5
1				2				7
					5		9	
		8				2		
	4		8					
8				1				2
5				9			6	
					7	8		

Difficulty Level ★★

4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	4	3	2	9	1	6	8	7
1	7	8	4	6	3	2	5	9
2	9	6	5	8	7	4	3	1
4	6	9	8	1	5	3	7	2
8	1	7	3	2	6	9	4	5
3	5	2	7	4	9	1	6	8
9	8	1	6	5	4	7	2	3
7	2	4	9	3	8	5	1	6
6	3	5	1	7	2	8	9	4

ACROSS

- 1 "...He's making a ___ and checking it..."
5 Lopsided
10 TV's Dr. ___
14 Smidgen
15 Ibis or heron
16 Italy's capital
17 Amazed
18 Over
19 Mountain range in Europe
20 LL Cool J and Eminem
22 Most uncanny
24 Ancient
25 Tell the waiter what you'd like
26 Piece of celery
29 Major network
30 Offends
34 Draw in; entice
35 Chum
36 ___ Leone; African nation
37 Brewed drink
38 Capital of Nova Scotia
40 Have a bug
41 Loose-leaf page holder
43 Musician's job
44 Count calories
45 Madrid's nation
46 Cribbage piece
47 ___ up; is durable
48 Burn with liquid
50 Tillis or Gibson
51 Come before
54 Under
58 Volcanic output
59 In a while
61 ___ market; swap meet
62 Take ___; assume control
63 Newton or Hayes
64 Drug addict
65 Take care of
66 Late comedian Jack ___
67 Suffered defeat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24				25					
26	27	28				29			30	31	32	33
34				35			36					
37			38				39			40		
41		42				43				44		
45						46			47			
			48			49			50			
51	52	53				54				55	56	57
58				59		60				61		
62				63						64		
65						66				67		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/18/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

GATES	SLAM	RISK
ARENA	CEDE	ERIN
SEARS	AIDS	CONE
PARASOLS	SPONGE	
	GILD	PERUSES
ASCEND	AESOP	
RHO	GEESE	DEATH
MATS	RACKS	DIRE
SHEAF	ROSES	MEW
	MOUNT	VERSES
ASSERTS	PERU	
SPINET	BANISTER	
TILE	EPIC	ASIDE
IRKS	RITE	LEDGE
ROYS	SPED	STEED

(c) 2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

4/18/13

DOWN

- 1 Fib teller

- 2 Des Moines, ___
3 ___ on; trample
4 Pollywog
5 Prize
6 Keep ___ on; watch closely
7 Wedding words
8 Crowbars
9 Covered with pines, e.g.
10 Grassland tract
11 Golfer's target
12 Mischief makers
13 In case
21 BPOE member
23 Stir again
25 "Much ___!"; thankful phrase
26 Concrete strips
27 Dutch flower
28 Game site
29 Nickname for Pres. Coolidge
31 Weak & fragile
32 Cooked in oil
33 Seasons with a table shaker
35 Golfing term

- 36 Droop
38 Therefore
39 Desert fruit
42 Throw away
44 Sad
46 Make happy
47 Rooster's mate
49 Speak without preparation
50 Compassion
51 Scheme
52 Talk wildly
53 Like 2, 4 and 6
54 Lima or pinto
55 Additionally
56 Pegs for Els
57 Male red deer
60 Sunbathe

Marathon medals for sale on eBay; group that makes them disgusted

Jenn Abelson
BOSTON GLOBE STAFF

© 2013 The New York Times

The owners of a company that manufactures medals for the Boston Marathon said they are disgusted to find out people are selling them on eBay for hundreds of dollars.

Kim Ashworth, of Ashworth Awards in North Attleborough, said she was unaware the medals, which feature blue-and-yellow ribbon, are showing up for sale online and is concerned thieves may be profiting from Monday's tragedy. As of Wednesday afternoon, there were five active listings on eBay, with bids ranging from \$162.50 to \$306.

"I think it's absolutely horrible," said Ashworth, who finished the Marathon a half-hour before the explosions and whose twin sister completed it just nine minutes before the bombs detonated.

"I don't know of any runners who would do that and sell their medals for a profit," Ashworth said. "I know several friends haven't gotten medals who were stopped at the 25-mile mark. A lot of people left the city or didn't want to go back to the site."

Some runners reported that the Boston Athletic Association handed out medals to runners picking up their belongings at the Park Plaza Castle.

Ashworth's husband and the company's president, Dan Ashworth, said he believes the medals were probably stolen after the blasts. "It's just disgusting," he said. "Everyone was evacuated, so the med-

als were probably just left there for anyone to take."

An eBay official said the company does not allow listings that "graphically portray, glorify, or attempt to profit from human tragedy or suffering" and added that teams are monitoring listings to ensure they comply. In addition, people can report items to eBay for review. But as of Wednesday

evening, all five medal listings remained.

Ashworth Awards, which has made Boston Marathon medals for 31 years, provided 26,000 of them to the Boston Athletic Association before the race. The Ashworths said they would work with the association if requested to help provide medals to runners who did not receive them. □

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484
Schotland str. 70

Extend your Stay at
Quality Apartments

*Studio & Loft Apts. *Fully Furnished
*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV *Swimming Pool
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.
Feel free to contact or visit us.
Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.

HOME SWEET HOME REAL ESTATE
Real Business... Real People

FOR SALE

House in a nice residential area, a 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, with pool, double garage, fully fenced, fully a/c, top condition build on property land.
US \$ 282.000.00.

Office: 588-7868 / Cel: 592-9966

FOR SALE

Mondanza Villa Park 112
READY TO MOVE IN
3 BEDROOM FAMILY HOME
WITH POOL IN SMALL, QUIET RESIDENCY!
Centrally located on 553 m² of property land. The total constructed area is 153 m². This home offers lots of privacy and comes with 100 % A/C, fully equipped modern kitchen (with oven, cooktop e.g. and granite counter top), modern bathrooms fully fenced in, bomanite terraces, maintenance free landscaping and much more.

US \$ 446.630,-

Century 21
Best & Solid Real Estate

Palm Beach 4-G
Tel.: 586 4242
www.arubahouses.com

FOR SALE

Commercial Land at Barcadera
4900m²
Warehouse and Office 1200m² included.
For more information
Call: 568-7322

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Renaissance ocean view
week 32 Rm 2351 \$3500

ritchey5652@comcast.net

199024

FOR SALE

Florida Time Share
for sale/rent
O.F. grand shores west Rm 307,
2 wks 5 jan 19 to feb 2
Redding beach, gulf blvd
e-mail: rmwjm@aol.com
508-651-0016

199337

wk 52 Studio WOW

Divi Village Golf Resort

great ocean & pool view

only \$6950

contact 564-2686 until 19/4/13

or z3837@yahoo.de

199309

FOR SALE

La Cabana wk 13, sun-sun

Studio, sleeps 4

newly renovated, ocean and

pool view \$5500

Denise 847-446-4223

denisehgibson@gmail.com

199142

FOR SALE

Divi Phoenix week 12

2 Adjoining 1 Bdr Units

Great Ocean View

Price \$22,000.00

Call: 737-3000

ITR Realty Inc

itraruba@gmail.com

199341

FOR SALE

2006 Kia Opirus -Zilver

112.500 km -3500 v6 motor

Price: 17350

Call: 662-2950

199347

FOR SALE

Costa Linda week 14

2 Bedroom / 2 Bath

Great Deal!!!

Price \$12,000.00

Call: 737-3000

ITR Realty Inc

itraruba@gmail.com

199348

FOR SALE

Renaissance Ocean View

wk 1 -137 \$10.500

wk 16 two weeks to Rent

\$1000 a week

Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)

1-781-324-8130

Joe or Mary Summers

114364

DOCTOR ON DUTY
Oranjestad
Dr. Habibe

EMERGENCIA

911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD Paradera Tel: 588-6638

S. NICOLAS San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

SERVICES

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Island Princess
Adventure of the Seas

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

FOUNDATION

FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440

Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,
Anonymity guaranteed

FUNDACION

Anti-Droga

Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

FUNDACION

Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



Scientists decode DNA of 'living fossil' fish

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have decoded the DNA of a celebrated "living fossil" fish, gaining new insights into how today's mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds evolved from a fish ancestor.

The African coelacanth is closely related to the fish lineage that started to move toward a major evolutionary transformation, living on land. And it hasn't changed much from its ancestors of even 300 million years ago, researchers said.

At one time, scientists thought coelacanths died out some 70 million years ago. But in a startling discovery in 1938, a South African fish trawler caught a living specimen. Its close resemblance to its ancient ancestors earned it the



This 2008 image made available by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History shows an African coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*).

Associated Press

"living fossil" nickname. And in line with that, analysis shows its genes have been remarkably slow to change, an international team of researchers reported Wednesday in the

journal *Nature*. Maybe that's because the sea caves where the coelacanth lives provide such a stable environment, said Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, senior author of the paper and a

gene expert at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Modern coelacanths make up two endangered species that live off the east coast of Africa and off Indonesia. They grow to more than 5 feet (1.5 meters) long and have fleshy fins.

The coelacanth's DNA code, called its genome, is slightly smaller than a human's. Using it as a starting point, the researchers found evidence of changes in genes and in gene-controlling "switches" that evidently aided the move onto land. They involve such things as sense of smell, the immune system and limb development.

Further study of the genome may give more insights into the transition to living on land, they said. Their analysis concluded

that a different creature, the lungfish, is the closest living fish relative of animals with limbs, like mammals, but they said the lungfish genome is too big to decode.

The water-to-land transition took tens of millions of years, with limbs developing in primarily aquatic animals as long as nearly 400 million years ago, by some accounts, and a true switchover to life on land by maybe 340 million years ago, said researcher Ted Daeschler.

Daeschler, curator of vertebrate zoology at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, who didn't participate in the new work, said genome research provides a way to tackle some previously unanswerable questions in evolution. □

Test launch of private rocket scrubbed in U.S.

BROCK VERGAKIS
Associated Press

WALLOPS ISLAND, Virginia (AP) — A private company contracted by the U.S. space agency to make supply runs to the International Space Station called off a test launch of an unmanned rocket, saying an important data cord linked to the rocket's second stage detached too soon. The Antares rocket had been scheduled to blast off Wednesday afternoon from Virginia when the countdown clock was halted 12 minutes before the expected launch.

Barron Beneski, a spokesman for Orbital Sciences Corp., said officials would try again no sooner than Friday afternoon, though no date was immediately announced.

Orbital crews were examining the rocket to determine how the ethernet cable came loose.

Orbital officials initially had said they suspected high winds.

At the time the cable separated, the winds were blowing less than 7 mph (11 kph), said Frank Culbertson, executive vice president and general manager of

Orbital's Advanced Programs.

"They were really light," he said. "You know, we don't know if it was something blowing in the wind or a big sea gull."

Orbital was one of two companies, along with competitor SpaceX, chosen to supply the space station by NASA, which ended its three-decade-old shuttle program in 2011. SpaceX was awarded a \$1.6 billion contract by NASA in 2006 to make a dozen restocking missions. SpaceX has linked up with the space station three times. In 2008, Orbital jumped in and was awarded a \$1.9 billion contract for eight deliveries.

"We've been playing catch up, but we're about caught up," Culbertson said recently. "By the end of next year we should have an additional four or five cargo missions under our belt, so we're going to



Orbital Sciences Corp. Antares rocket vents fuel as it sits on the launch pad at the NASA facility on Wallops Island Va., Wednesday April 17, 2013.

Associated Press

be moving fast." Wednesday's planned launch was designed to test whether a practice payload could reach orbit and safely separate from the rocket.

If ultimately successful in testing Antares, Orbital executives have said they hoped to launch a rocket this summer carrying its Cygnus cargo ship aloft to see whether it could safely dock with the space station.

Orbital is under contract to eventually deliver about 44,000 pounds (19,950 ki-

lograms) of supplies to the space station and environs making about two deliveries per year.

Unlike the SpaceX's Dragon capsule, which is capable of two-way deliveries, the Orbital cargo ship is not designed to return with experiments or other items from the space station. Instead, Orbital's plans call for filling its Cygnus ship with garbage to be incinerated with the craft upon re-entering Earth's atmosphere. That's also what Russian, European and Japanese cargo ships do. □

Call 565-9535

Honey Dolls

Massage and escort service

Beautiful Latin Girls

Pick-up & Delivery 24/7

Serving Men-Couples- Women
All Genders

Red Light Tour

Bachelor Party Specialized

The best in the Caribbean



In this April 28, 2012 file photo, Don Rickles appears onstage at The 2012 Comedy Awards in New York. Associated Press

Friars Club to honor Don Rickles for comedy career

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Friars Club is honoring comedian Don Rickles with a lifetime achievement award. The entertainers' group said Wednesday it will celebrate the 86-year-old at its annual awards ceremony in New York.

Bob Costas, Tony Danza, Kathy Griffin, Bob Newhart, Regis Philbin and Joan Rivers are among those set to participate in the honors on June 24.

Rickles started his career in the 1950s and has worked with generations of legends, including Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and Lucille Ball. He still appears on the late-night shows of Jay Leno, David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel and Craig Ferguson.

Joseph Zappala, chairman of the Friars Foundation, said the Rickles celebration will live forever in club history. □

Martin Short could be back on TV in new sitcom

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Martin Short could be back in the weekly TV business with his former "Saturday Night Live" boss, Lorne Michaels.

Short says he's waiting to hear whether NBC will pick up a comedy pilot produced by Michaels as a series next season.

The untitled sitcom stars "SNL" writer John Mulaney and is loosely based on Mulaney's life.

Short plays a quiz show host who uses jokes written by Mulaney's character.

The former "SNL" cast member says Elliott Gould is also in the cast.

NBC and other networks will announce their lineups for 2013-14 season next month.

Short and Michaels were paired Tuesday to discuss Michaels' career at a Hollywood Radio & Television Society event. □

'Lone Ranger' aims to take Tonto beyond sidekick



This publicity image released by Disney shows Johnny Depp as Tonto, left, and Armie Hammer as The Lone Ranger, in a scene from "The Lone Ranger," opening July 3, 2013.

Associated Press

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — To watch a snippet of "The Lone Ranger" is to empathize with the stoic looks of concern its star, Johnny Depp, deadpans throughout the action film.

A white man playing Tonto, one of the most famous American Indian stereotypes of all time, might work. Then again, trouble might be coming.

In director Gore Verbinski's remake of the popular 1950s Western television series, Depp speaks in broken English, chants prayers, and wears feathers, face paint and — for some reason — a stuffed crow headdress.

But he also loses the subversive that helped make the original Tonto, played by a Canadian Mohawk, such a problematic sidekick to the masked hero.

The Disney remake has Tonto in the role of coach to John Reid, the idealistic law school graduate who finds himself out of his depth when he returns to his hometown and eventually becomes the Lone Ranger.

Verbinski framed the film as a buddy picture with a zany Western edge Wednesday

during a teaser screening at the movie theater convention CinemaCon in Las Vegas.

"The movie is an origin story," he said before showing about 20 minutes of material. "You'll get a sense about the delicate partnership that's arranged between these two guys, and their wildly diverse sense of justice."

Armie Hammer, who plays the square-jawed ranger, made a brief appearance with Depp, who was in full movie-star mode, sporting a cowboy hat, four gold necklaces, expensively ripped jeans and a bandanna hanging to his knees.

"Armie is very tall. Which means that we're not short," Depp told the industry crowd.

"Anything to add to that?" Verbinski asked.

"No," Depp responded, hoisting his microphone to the ceiling like a rock star and then strutting back off stage.

He might have been saving his voice for a fan question-and-answer session scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at a nearby Las Vegas theater.

At that appearance, the

49-year-old actor said he wanted his portrayal of Tonto "to give as much back to the human beings, the Native Americans as possible; to show that they have a fantastic sense of humor, very dry."

"The goal was to try to, in my own small way, right the many wrongs that have been done to those people and to show Tonto not only as a proud warrior but also as a man outside, just a bit outside," Depp said.

Verbinski also directed "Pirates of the Caribbean" films, and in "The Lone Ranger," Depp appears to be reprising some elements of his flamboyant Jack Sparrow character, including what could be the same head scarf.

Depp is not quite donning "red face," as he wears a mask of white and black paint through the film. That heavy eye makeup sets off the whites of his eyes, which he widens to comic effect when confronted with handcuffs, rifles and hurtling trains.

The film, set for release July 3, is Hollywood's first attempt to modernize the Lone Ranger franchise, which has gathered dust for several generations. □

Olmos, Phillips remember Jenni Rivera in film

MARCELA ISAZA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jenni

Rivera had other chances to act in films, but she chose to make her movie debut in "Filly Brown" simply because her close friend, Edward James Olmos, made the request. In fact, Rivera didn't even read the script when she agreed to portray a drug-addicted prisoner in the movie.

"I said, 'I need a favor from you, a big one,'" Olmos recalled. "She said, 'What is it?' I said, 'I need you to work with me on a film. I'll send you the script. Let me know if you like the story.' And she goes, 'Eddie, I'm dumbstruck with the understanding that you are asking me to do you a favor.'"

Rivera, a U.S.-born singer who became a huge star among Latin audiences, was killed in a plane crash last Dec. 9 in northern Mexico. "Filly Brown," which has its limited release on Friday, was her first and only film. It also stars Gina Rodriguez and Chrissie Fit



as her daughters, and Lou Diamond Phillips as her husband. It was directed by Olmos' son, Michael D. Olmos, and Youssef Delara.

Rodriguez warmly remembers working with Rivera — how apologetic she was when they would rehearse scenes where her character was mean-spirited.

"That was funny, like all

the preparation we did for us to get on that set and for her to really, you know be a mother to me, but a mother that she is not used to being. So she really transformed that woman," said Rodriguez.

"I am so proud of her performance. I am so blessed I got to work with that woman. I miss her every day. ... But now it's about cel-

ebrating that woman because that woman is and always will be fierce."

Both Olmos and Phillips were impressed by Rivera's acting.

"You may know Lou (Diamond Phillips) or you may know me and you are sitting there but you don't know anybody else," explained Olmos.

"You are going to get your mind blown because they are brilliant performances. But then you find out this was the first time she ever touched the art form, and this is what she gave us. You could only imagine where she could have gone."

Phillips admitted he knew nothing about Rivera before they worked together on "Filly Brown," but was greatly impressed by her performance.

"This isn't a glamorous role. This is a down and dirty, gritty performance," Phillips said. "She didn't hesitate. She came in and grabbed it with both hands and just wrestled this beautiful performance out of herself and that was impressive."

Rivera and six others died in the plane crash, which remains under investigation. Rivera, a mother of five children and grandmother of two, was 43.

Rivera sold more than 15 million copies of her 12 major-label albums. Her soulful singing style and honesty about her tumultuous personal life won her fans on both sides of the border.

Phillips first came to prominence playing Richie Valens in the 1987 biopic "La Bamba," which ends with Valens' death in a plane crash. For Phillips, who got the news of Rivera's death from Olmos, finding out felt like something from "The Twilight Zone."

"When Jenni (Rivera) went down in the plane, for me, maybe me more than anyone else,

I had this bizarre sense of the surreal-ness of it because I wouldn't be here if it weren't for 'La Bamba,'" confessed Phillips. "I wouldn't have a career if it weren't for that role and for the tragic loss that Richie's family suffered." □

Vergara relieved son was home for Boston bombing

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Like most

mothers, Sofia Vergara was worried after hearing about the bombings at the Boston Marathon. But she was also relieved that her son, Manolo, who attends school in Boston, was not there on Monday when the attack took place.

Three people were killed and more than 170 injured when two pressure cookers bombs went off near the finish line.

"He just went back to Boston last night because he had class today. But he was here when the tragedy happened," Vergara told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"Thank God he was not there or I would have become crazy," the actress said. "I know for a lot of mothers it was a difficult time because the phone

lines were so busy. I'm sure that for all the hours and minutes — whatever that lasted — I'm sure it was horrible."

And relief soon turned to worry about his return. "Last night it was terrible for me. I told him please not to go into public places. Just go to class and stay in his apartment and try not to be outside," she said.

But then she added: "Hopefully, nothing is going to happen. Hopefully, this was just one horrible thing, and they're going to catch this guy and it's going to stop."

Vergara spoke of the incident while promoting a campaign for hypothyroidism awareness. The actress was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2000, and continues to take medication for treatment.

The "Modern Family" actress also addressed her



Columbian actress Sofia Vergara poses for a portrait, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 in New York. Associated Press

plans to have another child, at some point. For now, she's freezing her eggs.

"I'm 40 years old and things don't happen that natural anymore, so we want to make sure when we're ready — my boyfriend is three years younger than me and has no kids — I wanted to take advantage of science."

But the actress says she has no timetable for a new ad-

dition to the family.

"We would like to buy a house. We are also planning to eventually get married.

I have so much work this year. So definitely this year it's not going to happen," she said.

Vergara is currently on hiatus from "Modern Family," but has several films coming out, including a starring role in the Robert Rodriguez thriller, "Machete Kills." □

'Star Wars' films to come yearly starting in 2015

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Disney is turning "Star Wars" films into an annual summer ritual.

Walt Disney Co. chairman Alan Horn announced Wednesday that the studio would release films set in a galaxy far, far away every year start-

ing in 2015.

The parade of films will start with "Star Wars: Episode VII," directed by J.J. Abrams.

Horn said the studio will then alternate films in the new "Star Wars" trilogies with spin off films drawn from the same universe. □

When God is your therapist

T.M. Luhrmann

© 2013 New York Times News Service

T.M. Luhrmann, a professor of anthropology at Stanford and the author of "When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship With God," is a guest columnist. It had never occurred to me to think of God as a therapist when I began to spend time, 10 years ago, at an evangelical church in Chicago. Like many secular observers, I was interested in the fact that people like me seemed to experience reality in a fundamentally different manner. I soon came to realize that one of the most important features of these churches is that they offer a powerful way to deal with anxiety and distress, not because of what people believe but because of what they do when they pray.

One way to see this is that the books teaching someone how to pray read a lot like cognitive behavior therapy manuals. For instance, the Rev. Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life," one of the best-selling books of all time, teaches you to identify your self-critical, self-demeaning thoughts, to interrupt them and recognize them as mistaken, and to replace them with different thoughts. Cognitive-behavioral therapists often ask their patients to write down the critical, debilitating thoughts that make their lives so difficult, and to practice using different ones. That is more or less what Warren invites readers to do. He spells out thoughts he thinks his readers have but don't want, and then asks them to consider themselves from God's point of view: not as the inadequate people they feel themselves to be, but as loved, as relevant and as having purpose.

Does it work? In my own research, the more people affirmed, "I feel God's love for me, directly," the less stressed and lonely they were and the fewer psychiatric symptoms they reported.

More strikingly, I saw that the church implicitly invited people to treat God like an actual therapist. In many evangelical churches, prayer is understood as a back-and-forth conversation with God – a daydream in which you talk with a wise, good, fatherly friend. Indeed, when congregants talk about their relationship with God, they often sound as if they think of God as some benign, complacent therapist who will listen to their concerns and help them to handle them.

"It's just like talking to a therapist," one woman told me, "especially in the beginning, when you're revealing things that are deep in your heart and deep in your soul, the things that have been pushed down and denied." The church encourages people to bring those conversations with God into their prayer group and to share their struggles with others, who are expected to respond with love, respect and compassion.

You can see this therapeutic dimension most clearly when evangelicals respond to the body blows of life. The churches I studied resisted turning to God for an explanation of tragedy. They asked only that people turn to God for help in dealing with the pain. "God doesn't want to be analyzed," one woman explained to me. "He wants your love."

A young man – a kind man with two adorable children and a loving wife – died unexpectedly in one of the churches where I spent time. When the pastor spoke in church the following Sunday, he did not try to explain the death. Instead, he told the church to experience God as present. "This is a difficult philosophical issue for Christians," he said. "We who believe in a loving, personal God who created the Earth and can intervene at any time – we have this problem." His answer? "Creation is beautiful but it is not safe." He called our everyday reality "broken." What should you do? Get to know God. "Learn to hang out with him now."

I saw the same thing at another church, where a young couple lost a child in a late miscarriage. Some months later I spent several hours with them. Clearly numbed, they told me they did not understand why God had allowed the child to die. But they never gave a theological explanation for what happened. They blamed neither their own wickedness nor demons. Instead, they talked about how important it was to know that God had stood by their side.

The husband quoted from memory a passage in the Gospel of John, where many followers abandon Jesus because his teachings don't make sense to them. Jesus says sadly to his disciples, "You do not want to leave, too, do you?" and Peter responds, "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

This approach to the age-old problem of theodicy is not really available to mainstream Protestants and Catholics, who do not imagine a God so intimate, so loving, so much like a person. That may help to explain why it is evangelical Christianity that has grown so much in the last 40 years.

It can seem puzzling that evangelical Christians sidestep the apparent contradiction of why bad things happen to good people. But for them, God is a relationship, not an explanation.

This may seem theologically simple-minded – indeed, even some evangelical Christians find it so. But there are lots of ways to explain things in this sophisticated, scientifically aware society. What churches like these offer is a way of dealing with unhappiness. Tragedy, and prayers that apparently go unanswered, can actually strengthen believers' sense of a bond with God. That's when they feel that they most need him. □



Bring on the next marathon



Thomas L. Friedman

© 2013 New York Times News Service

Looking at scenes of the Boston sidewalk a few hours after Monday's bombing – torn clothing, bloodstains, shards of glass – I found my mind going back to a similar sidewalk in Tel Aviv in September 2003.

A Hamas suicide bomber had blown himself up at a bus stop outside the Tsrifin army base, and by coincidence I was nearby and got there to witness the immediate aftermath. As I wrote then, parts of the bomber were still on the street, including his hairy leg. His shoe had been blown off, but his brown sock was still daintily on his foot. Israeli rescue workers calmly carried away the dead on stretchers, with an odd mix of horror and routine. But what I remember most was something the police spokesman said to me: "We will have this whole area cleaned up in two hours. By morning, the bus stop will be repaired. You will never know this happened." We still do not know who set off the Boston Marathon bombs or why. But we do know now, after 9/11, after all the terrorism the world has seen in the last decade, what the right reaction is: wash the sidewalk, wipe away the blood, and let whoever did it know that while they have sickeningly maimed and killed some of our brothers and sisters, they have left no trace on our society or way of life. Terrorists are not strong enough to do that – only we can do that to ourselves – and we must never accommodate them.

So let's repair the sidewalk im-

mediately, fix the windows, fill the holes and leave no trace – no shrines, no flowers, no statues, no plaques – and return life to normal there as fast as possible. Let's defy the terrorists, by not allowing them to leave even the smallest scar on our streets, and honor the dead by sanctifying our values, by affirming life and all those things that make us stronger and bring us closer together as a country.

Let's name a playground or a school after that 8-year-old boy, Martin Richard, who was standing by the finish line, and who ran out and hugged his father, Bill, after he completed the race, and then trustingly walked back to the sidewalk to be with his mother and sister when the bomb tore through them all. Let's donate to the favorite life-giving charities of the other victims. Let's pitch in to help the injured recover. But on lovely Boylston Street in Boston, a place normally so full of life, let there be no reminder whatsoever of what President Barack Obama called this "heinous and cowardly act" of terror.

And while we are at it, let's schedule another Boston Marathon as soon as possible. Cave dwelling is for terrorists. Americans? We run in the open on our streets – men and women, young and old, new immigrants and foreigners, in shorts not armor, with abandon and never fear, eyes always on the prize, never on all those "suspicious" bundles on the curb. In today's world, sometimes we pay for that quintessentially American naivete, but the benefits – living in an open society – always outweigh the costs.

Terrorists know that, of course, and feed on it. The explosives were reportedly packed into six-liter pressure cookers, tucked into black duffel bags and then left on the ground. That is the signature of modern terrorism: to turn routine items from our lives into bombs – the shoe, the backpack, the car, the airplane, the cellphone, the laptop, the garage door opener,

fertilizer, the printer, the pressure cooker – so that everything and everyone becomes a source of suspicion. This can pose a much greater threat to our open society than the Soviet Army ever did – if we let it – because this kind of terrorism attacks the essential thing that keeps an open society open: trust. Trust is built into every aspect, every building, every interaction and every marathon in our open society. Terrorists can steal it for a moment or even a while, but we dare not let them fundamentally erode it, and I don't think we will. When you watch the video of the bombing aftermath, notice how many people you see running toward the blast within seconds to help, even though more bombs easily could have been set to explode there.

Fortunately, we don't frighten easily anymore. You could feel it in the country on Tuesday morning. We've been through 9/11. We probably overreacted then, but never again. We tracked down Osama bin Laden with police and intelligence work, and we'll do the same in this case. But meanwhile, even in this age of terrorism, let's keep heeding the advice of an advertisement that you could see hanging in a Boylston Street window in a picture taken after the blast. The picture showed a marathoner sifting through unclaimed runners' bags left behind after the explosion. Behind him, in the window, the ad poster says: "Your home should be a place to rest easy."

Only we can take that away from ourselves – not some terrorist with one despicable spasm of madness. So hug your kids tonight, but also encourage them to start training for the next marathon tomorrow. Now that I think of it, maybe we should make this one longer – from Boston to the site of the World Trade Center to the Pentagon – to remind ourselves and anyone else who needs reminding: This is our house. We intend to relax here. And we are not afraid. □

Study that set tone for austerity is challenged

ANNIE LOWREY

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON – In recent years, policymakers in Europe and the United States have fastened on the notion that reaching a certain heavy burden of debt would threaten future economic health – often to justify austerity budgets that increased unemployment and sapped economic strength in the here and now.

But now some economists are challenging the very foundations of that idea, raising questions about whether such a debt threshold even exists and setting off a fierce debate that flared up Tuesday across the Internet about whether potentially flawed research is at least partly responsible for the slow growth that has bedeviled most advanced industrial countries since the recovery from the financial crisis began in 2009.

The debate comes at a particularly fraught time, as economic officials from the U.S. and other countries gather for the annual spring meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, where many are expected to urge high-debt Europe to ease up on its commitment to austerity in the face of rising unemployment and new economic contractions. The controversy stems from a provocative new paper by economists at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, that claims to have found some basic errors in one of the most pathbreaking and influential economic studies to come out in the last few years.

That was a 2010 research paper by Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff of Harvard, who wrote a best-seller, "This Time Is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly," that popularized their views. The economists, analyzing 3,700 separate economic observations, found little relationship between growth and debt for coun-

tries with debt-to-gross-domestic-product ratios of 90 percent or less. But for countries with debt loads equivalent to or above 90 percent of annual economic output, "median

of the "threshold" theory to begin with. And many others noted how hard it could be to draw straight lines between debt and economic growth, given the panoply of factors at

ics profession, with some commentators even arguing that it undermines the austerity policies that have proved so prevalent in the last few years.

"How much unemploy-

that separate pieces of research had found similar results to the Harvard professors' original paper, using alternative data sets and significantly strengthening the argument that higher-debt economies suffered from slower growth. Those include studies by the IMF, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Bank for International Settlements. "There's nothing about this that will change my view of the universe," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office and prominent Republican economist. "The sun still rises in the east. It sets in the west. And a lot of debt is still bad."

In an emailed statement, Reinhart and Rogoff did not directly address the assertions of mathematical errors, and noted that they had only just started to sift through the new paper. But they argued that the Amherst authors had also found lower growth rates when a country had debts equivalent to or greater than 90 percent of annual economic output.

"It is hard to see how one can interpret these tables and individual country results as showing that public debt overhang over 90 percent is clearly benign," they wrote.

The seemingly esoteric debate within the economics profession has collided this week with a broader challenge to excessive budget-cutting in countries around the world. The IMF cautioned Washington leaders for cutting its budget too fast, too soon, even as it saw the U.S. economy strengthening. And on Tuesday, Olivier Blanchard, the fund's chief economist, warned that Britain was "playing with fire" with its austerity policy.

Reinhart and Rogoff "are right to say the basic structure of the result stands," Wolfers said. "The authors of the critique are right to say its force is lessened." The debate, he added, is far from over. □



Professors Kenneth Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart, authors of an economic study on the relationship of government debt to growth, in Washington. A provocative new paper claims to have found some basic errors in the study conducted by Rogoff and Reinhart.

(Mary F. Calvert/The New York Times)

growth rates fall by 1 percent, and average growth falls considerably more." Many politicians interpreted the research as showing a direct relationship between debt and growth: If a country reached a debt burden of more than 90 percent of its annual economic output, the logic went, it would quickly fall into a debt trap that would leave it struggling to grow in the coming years. Prominent politicians – including Olli Rehn of the European Commission and Rep. Paul D. Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee – cited it as a reason to try to impose major budget cuts.

The Harvard economists' research was always more nuanced about the causal relationship between debt and growth than the popular view. Some economists expressed skepticism

work. But now, Thomas Herndon, Michael Ash and Robert Pollin of UMass, Amherst, in trying to replicate the Reinhart-Rogoff results, are challenging the conclusions for a different reason. They say they found some simple miscalculations or data exclusions that sharply altered the ultimate results.

According to their rerunning of the figures, "the average real GDP growth rate for countries carrying a public debt-to-GDP ratio of over 90 percent is actually 2.2 percent, not -0.1 percent," they write. In other words, heavy debts were not associated with the malaise that Reinhart and Rogoff – and much of the world's economic elite – thought that they were.

The new paper, released this week, has set off a storm within the econom-

ment was caused by Reinhart and Rogoff's arithmetic mistake?" asked Dean Baker of the left-leaning Center for Economic and Policy Research, for instance.

But in interviews, several economic experts cautioned that it would take time to sort out the statistical implications of any problems in the highly technical research.

"I think it's totally fair to say it's embarrassing," said Justin Wolfers, an economist at the University of Michigan, who added that he had not had the chance to study the results and noted that debates over supposed statistical problems were common in the profession. "But the mistakes that are most embarrassing are the least consequential" to Reinhart and Rogoff's conclusion, he added. Other experts said